

NEWS

in brief

New round of IDF appointments

OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yarnai has been named OC Planning Branch, the IDF Spokesman announced yesterday. Yarnai will replace Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, who will become deputy chief of general staff. Brig.-Gen. Yom Tov Samia will replace Yarnai as OC Southern Command, and will be promoted to the rank of major-general.

The appointments, made by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Arnon Lipkin-Shahak, were approved yesterday by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. They will take effect in coming weeks.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Livneh replacement to be announced Sunday

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's choice of a new military adviser may be announced by next Sunday, before he leaves for official visits to Japan and South Korea, an authoritative source said yesterday. The sensitive post is being vacated by Lt. Gen. Ze'ev Livneh, who will be Israel's new military attaché in Washington.

"There are several worthy candidates and the prime minister is choosing between them," the source said.

Jay Bushinsky

Man accused of killing soldier remanded

Samar Aladin, 21, of Horfeish, suspected of shooting to death soldier Ahmed Hasawi of Peki' in on Sunday night, was remanded for 10 days yesterday by Acre Magistrate's Court.

Police said Aladin shot Hasawi because he became friendly with Aladin's former girlfriend, also a soldier, after the girlfriend was transferred away from the army base on which she and Aladin had served. Aladin completed his compulsory service several months ago.

The woman soldier, 19, from Ashdod, suffered light to moderate wounds in the shooting.

Iim

Court extends remands in gas station slaying

The Jerusalem Magistrate's court extended the remand yesterday of three of the four yeshiva students suspected of involvement in the killing of a 74-year-old gas station attendant in east Jerusalem.

Judge Rafi Carmel ordered the driver, David Yefet, held another four days, and extended the remand on two others, Eliahu Moskowitz and Nahman Heshin, by two days. Nurit Blubstein of the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office asked to have Yefet, the driver of the vehicle that dragged the attendant to his death, held until trial. The attendant had grabbed onto the car driven by Yefet when the latter drove away from a Sheikh Jarrah station without paying for gas.

Iim

Police nab alleged drug dealers

In their biggest narcotics coup in a decade, Jerusalem police said yesterday that they have arrested 32 drug dealers from east Jerusalem and surrounding villages, using two Arab undercover agents and hidden cameras. The operation dubbed "a thorough cleaning" was conducted over the past six months, and yielded arrests of dealers suspected of selling dozens of doses of narcotics a day and thousands in all over recent months, police said.

Iim

Government halts Persian language broadcasts

The government has halted Persian language broadcasts transmitted via the AMOS satellite, because of "inciteful messages" beamed by some stations, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday. Such broadcasts, the ministry said, "do not conform to what is acceptable and customary in radio and television broadcasts." It said that the private companies involved "were required to discontinue" the offensive broadcasts.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Arutz 7 first 24-hour web broadcaster

Arutz 7 has become the first Israeli radio station to broadcast around the clock on the Web, Virtual Jerusalem, which hosts the online program said yesterday. The broadcasts from a floating studio in the Mediterranean can be accessed from Virtual's home page at www.virtual.co.il.

Virtual Jerusalem President Avi Moskowitz said that Arutz 7 was "one of the more popular sites" they offer.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Pipe bomber remanded

A man accused of placing a pipe bomb in Petah Tikva magistrate court was remanded for five days yesterday in Kfar Saba. The bomb exploded causing damage to the walls. Menachem Shtrama, 38, is considered a follower of Uzi Meshulam, the imprisoned Yemenite rights activist. Last week several 45-year old graves of Yemenite infants were found empty, strengthening charges they were kidnapped and given to European parents.

Iim

Labor calls for Knesset session on economic situation

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
and LIAT COLLINS

Labor Party whip Ra'anan Cohen has submitted the necessary 30 signatures to convene a special Knesset session during the recess on the economic situation and rising inflation.

"It is a moral sin and organizational evil to ignore the distress of the 150,000 unemployed," said Cohen, referring to a figure published yesterday that the number of job seekers climbed to about 145,000 in July.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should cut short his "heavily publicized" vacation and get together with economic experts to find a

solution for the economic crisis, MK Dalia Itzik, the head of the Labor Party's response team, said yesterday.

"It is now clear that whoever promised us a rapidly thriving economy [Netanyahu] has instead brought colossal defeat," Itzik stated. "Not only is there no security and no peace, there is also no economy."

Itzik drew a direct line between Netanyahu's policy and the sharp rise in unemployment since January and slowdown in economic growth, which is the lowest it has been in the past eight years.

"The belligerent rhetoric and militant announcements, the disappearance of

investors, fewer workplaces, less income for the state and the collapse of Israel's relations with the Arab world are today reflected in the economy, but Netanyahu refuses to understand that," she said.

Itzik noted that only a month ago Netanyahu "sent the Treasury officials shamelessly home because he didn't like their predictions for 1998, and ordered them to paint the estimates pink. Here too, Netanyahu is not willing to look at reality and prefers to touch it up. But today reality is slapping our face."

She said the saddest thing is that the towns most afflicted by unemployment are

those where a majority voted for Netanyahu. "It's a stinging slap in the face to those voters," she said.

Itzik urged Netanyahu and the ministers traveling around the world to come back for an emergency meeting and formulate, with the help of economic experts, a clear plan which would provide immediate "first aid" to towns with high unemployment like Ofakim, Shlomi and Ma'alot.

Meretz MK Anar Maor said that while Netanyahu continues his vacation, thousands of citizens have difficulty in making a living, the economy is crashing and the educational system is collapsing.



Lunch meet

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon (center) banter with Hadash MK Hashem Mahamid over a lunch of lamb while Islamic leader Raied Salah, mayor of Um el-Fahm sits on his left. Sharon was critical of some pro-Palestinian statements made by members of an Israeli-Arab delegation in Syria last week, saying they bordered on the intolerable.

(Gideon Markowicz)

NEWSLINE

with Boaz Ganor

How do you respond to reports that the Mahaneh Yehuda bombers came from abroad?

In the last period, the only incident we knew where the terrorist came from abroad was the Lawrence Hotel in Jerusalem in 1996. The terrorist underwent all checks and came to Tel Aviv and then Jerusalem, and he blew himself up accidentally in Jerusalem. This is the only one we knew for sure came from abroad.

In the past, the Japanese Red Army in 1972 came from abroad but they carried out their attack in the airport before security or passport checks.

I would not be so quick to determine that they (the perpetrators of the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing) came from abroad.

There is a trend by Palestinian terrorists to stop taking responsibility for the attacks. In the beginning, Hamas and Islamic Jihad would take responsibility for the attacks. They would have ceremonies and mourning tents and invite the news media. This changed since February and March 1996 and now they try to conceal their responsibility. This is due to the wishes of the Palestinian Authority.

If they came from abroad, did they get help here? Theoretically, it's possible. But practically, if they came from abroad, I think they got help from here. An operation like Mahaneh Yehuda requires intelligence. They had to prepare the bombs. All this requires time and preparation.

What lessons do you derive from the capture by Palestinian security forces of the killers of the Jerusalem taxi driver?

It proves that the Palestinian Authority has unusually good intelligence on terrorist activity. To capture three people who committed

murder not as terrorists, but ostensibly for criminal purposes, is more difficult than to capture three members of a terrorist organization. Still, in a very short time they captured the three perpetrators. I think this shows they can capture just about anybody from any organization.

Does the US presence in meetings between Israeli and Palestinian security officials have any benefits?

From our point of view, it is beneficial. The Palestinians don't want to please Israel. They want to please the Americans. They are more sensitive to US criticism. So it is important that a CIA representative sees exactly first-hand what they give us and what they tell us. This way we don't have to convince the Americans that the PA can do more.

Q. Does the easing of the closure mean the end of Israeli pressure to heighten security cooperation with the PA?

The Israelis have to decide whether they want to continue the process or not. If the government decides that it doesn't want to continue and that Mahaneh Yehuda signaled the end of the road, then it has to demand from the PA that it operate against terrorism. But we are in a situation where the stick does not scare the Palestinians, because even when things were good, the peace process did not make progress. So perhaps the only means the Israelis have at their disposal is closure and collective punishment. Political punishment doesn't work anymore.

Boaz Ganor, academic director of the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism of the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya.

Steve Rodan

Israel to close down PA office in Jerusalem

Israel plans to close down an eastern Jerusalem office it considers to be associated with the Palestinian Authority, police said yesterday. A police spokesman said the Palestinian Association for

Welfare and Development would be closed within 10 days because "this office represents the [Palestinian] Authority, and is therefore illegal."

Last summer Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed the PA was operating the office in violation of the agreements. And several months ago Netanyahu demanded that more offices be closed.

(Reuters)

IMMIGRATION

Continued from Page 1

He added that 70% of the potential pool of immigrants in Ukraine and 55% in Russia had also already been tapped. Shoshani predicted that by year's end, there would be an overall drop of 10% in immigration from the former Soviet Union.

Nonetheless, Shoshani said, the Jewish Agency had a goal of bringing 50,000 or more immigrants a year for the next three years to meet a goal of bringing a million Jews from the former Soviet Union this decade.

The statistics released yesterday also showed a 6% dip in immigration from the Americas, to about 2,500. About 1,000 came from the US, a drop of 9% over last year.

About 800 newcomers were from Argentina, also showing about a 9% dropoff.

About 1,000 immigrants arrived from France, down 3% from last year, while immigration from the UK was down 12%, to 300.

Most immigrants arriving this year were young, with 30% 19 years old or younger, and 44% between ages 20 and 49. Only 26% were 50 or older. Last year immigration totaled 70,600 people, of whom 58,900 were from the former Soviet Union.

Soldier killed by vehicle at roadblock

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

An IDF soldier, Yehuda Ben-Harush, 35, from Ma'alot Admunim, was killed yesterday and an Israeli citizen was injured when a Palestinian truck driver attempting to overtake a car near a roadblock swerved into the opposite lane hitting the soldier and the car he tried to pass.

The truck driver was lightly injured. The accident occurred near an IDF roadblock at Breichat Shlomo on the southern outskirts of Bethlehem, police said.

Opher Sivan, spokesman for Judea and Samaria police, said the driver, who he didn't identify, would be arrested and his license confiscated for 90 days pending an investigation. Police also took the driver's identification card before

he was brought to a Bethlehem area hospital for treatment.

Sivan said the soldier, Ben-Harush, who suffered serious injuries and the citizen who sustained light to moderate injuries, were rushed to Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem. Ben-Harush died there of his injuries.

In another roadblock accident in the West Bank yesterday, a soldier was dragged for several meters yesterday when a truck driven by a Palestinian attempted to overtake an Israeli van near a roadblock. The van's driver was also injured, police said.

In another incident, a 20-year-old Palestinian from Battir, Fares Jamil Abdullah, got a four month prison term and a NIS 3,000 fine for driving without a license in the Gush Etzion area Sunday night.

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Our profound condolences

to his wife Sally, members of the family, and many people whose life he touched.

Benno Gitter

Chairman of the Board of Governors

Professor Yoram Dinsteln

President

FUNDS

Continued from Page 1

The Clinton administration welcomed the decision to release the payments and the improvement in security cooperation.

As a matter of policy, the administration says Israel should reimburse the PA for all the taxes - \$70 million according to the authority - and that Palestinian efforts to combat terrorism should not require Israeli concessions.

But State Department spokesman James Rubin said the exchange worked out Sunday night represented "reality" and was a step in the right direction.

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PM's aides attacked for Hebron visit

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH
and LIAT COLLINS

A delegation from the Prime Minister's Office and other government ministries visited Hebron yesterday to learn about the security problems of the Jewish community there, amid sharp criticism by former senior security officials who questioned their competence.

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, policy adviser David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's aide Uzi Arad, Yair

Mayan and Defense Ministry aide Bezalel Treiber met with Jewish community leaders at Beit Gutnick near the Tomb of the Patriarchs after meeting with IDF officers at the DCO.

Later they visited the Tomb and continued to Beit Hadassah and the Avraham Avinu Quarter.

On Israel radio Likud MK Gideon Ezra, former deputy chief of the General Security Services, said they should leave security assessments to professionals, while former government coordinator in the territories Maj. Gen.

(res.) Oren Shahor warned that the territories were on the verge of an explosion.

"It is not enough to be a year in government to understand the Palestinian issue," said Ezra. "You have to live it for many years and with due respect to Naveh, I think a cabinet secretary has enough things to deal with without dealing with the Hebron question and whether or not they are or are not abiding by the agreement. In my opinion neither Naveh nor David Bar-Ilan are sufficient authorities on the issue

to determine how the government must act. It's time something was done about this."

Naveh said he did not respond to personal attacks, had come to see the situation for himself and claimed the slogan, "Hebron once and always," as the government's policy.

Hebron Jewish Community Spokesman Noam Arnon said the delegation members were well aware of the difficulties encountered by the Jewish community and of Palestinian violations of the Hebron Agreement.

In addition Arnon said settlers explained that fears raised by the community before the signing of the agreement had in fact turned into reality. "We asked their assistance in allowing building to continue within the community and demanded that the construction freeze be lifted and permits granted," he said.

"We raised our fears regarding plans to open up the roads surrounding the Jewish quarters, which will pose a traffic hazard and also endanger our security," he added.

Naveh said that the decision to give the Palestinian Authority one-third of the taxes owed to it was due to its partial assistance in the investigation of the Mahane Yehuda attack and the subsequent capture of the Palestinians who murdered taxi driver Shmuel Ben Baruch.

"Any further easing of the closure depends entirely on the Palestinian Authority's ability to fight terror," he said.



Mordechai confers with US Congress delegation

US Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, the head of a 6-member Congressional delegation, meets with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday.

(Assaf Shalev/Israel Sun)

NEWS

in brief

Hatch, Gilman to receive award

Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Orrin Hatch and House International Affairs Committee chairman Benjamin Gilman will be awarded the Theodore Herzl Friend of Zion Award at a Knesset ceremony Thursday. The award, for their staunch support of close US-Israel ties, is sponsored by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Fund of Aish Hatorah.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Australia receives Maccabiah tragedy report

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday presented medical findings from the Maccabiah footbridge tragedy to Australian Ambassador Ian Wilcock. The document, a copy of which will be sent to Maccabiah Australia, contains lab data and medical reports on Australian sportsmen who were victims of the collapse last month. The meeting also included Israel's Ambassador to Australia Shmuel Moyal (who is now on a home visit) and Health Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash.

Judy Siegel and Jerusalem Post Staff

Telephone service on children's nutrition

A Health Ministry open telephone line on children's nutrition will be held tomorrow, less than two weeks before the opening of the new school year. Dieticians will answer queries on getting children to school after having a good breakfast, preparing children's lunches in a family with working parents and the importance of their eating a nutritious mid-morning snack. One may call from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to the ministry's nutrition department (02-6255223), or the various district health offices (03-9316221, 04-8619780, 08-9221263, 07-6464737 and 06-6791817).

Judy Siegel

Itamar Rabinovich named Cornell U. trustee

Tel Aviv University Prof. Itamar Rabinovich has been appointed to Cornell University's Board of Trustees as an Andrew White professor at large. Rabinovich, a former ambassador to the US and chief negotiator with Syria, is in the process of writing a book about the Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Jerusalem Post Staff

'Nanny' visiting

Fran Drescher, star of the hit television series "The Nanny," arrived in Israel yesterday for a visit with her parents, El Al Airlines said.

She is on a private visit, which is not her first to the country.

She and her parents plan to take in tours of Jerusalem, Galilee and Tel Aviv.

Jerusalem Post Staff



Fran Drescher (Yakov Katz)

Four houses demolished

The Civil Administration demolished four illegally built structures in the area of Hebron yesterday.

Spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said the structures included an illegal extension on the outskirts of Hebron and a two storey structure in Bani Naim.

The other two dwellings were in Beit Umar and Sair, villages on the road to Hebron from Jerusalem. Claims by Palestinians that a cowshed in Bani Naim was demolished were rejected by Lerner who explained that the ground floor of the two storey building was used to house the cows.

Margot Dudkevitch

Border policemen charged with assault and abduction

Three border policemen accused of beating two Palestinians so severely they had to be hospitalized were charged yesterday with aggravated assault and abduction in Jerusalem District Court.

A hearing on a state request to remand the three until the end of legal proceedings was postponed until tomorrow, to allow the policemen's attorneys to review the evidence.

According to the indictment, the officers, Michael Odrenko, Shai Ashtamker, and Nissim Adolter, stopped the two Palestinians last week in Beit Safafa in Jerusalem and took them to a secluded forest near the Betar checkpoint, where they beat them.

The three policemen first took one victim, Mahmoud Renim, and then the other, Ahmed Moussa, beat them with rocks and logs, and threatened to kill them with their loaded guns.

After releasing Renim, who stumbled to the road where he was picked up by passers-by and taken

to the hospital, they tied Moussa's leg to their jeep and dragged him along the ground for several dozen meters, "with an intent to maim or cripple" him, the indictment said.

After the attacks, the three tried to wipe out their jeep tracks and burn the documents they had taken from the victims to prevent their use as evidence, the indictment said.

The three have reportedly confessed to the beatings. Haim Misgav, Ashtamker's attorney, said his client was not innocent.

But he said, "a very close family member was murdered by Arabs a few years ago. I'm not saying this justified his actions. But I'm sure when the judge will consider his punishment, this will be taken into consideration."

Two other border policemen caught on videotape beating Palestinians were sentenced last week to eight months in jail.

News Agencies

Soldier, Hebron kids beat drums together

Jerusalem Post Staff
and News Agencies

Palestinian kids and an Israeli soldier beat African drums together in the Hebron market yesterday, which beats beating one another.

"It's a different way to see the Palestinian kids," said a soldier as he tapped a Jumbey drum. "They are smiling and they are happy." The drums were brought to Hebron by four Israeli musicians who hoped they would ease tensions. Settlers did not participate.

"Music will bring peace," said Lior Shai, a 26-year-old musician from Tel Aviv. He said the group might try to draw in settlers in another visit.

Officials downplay reported Dutch slurs

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Although the Foreign Ministry considers the case closed, a slew of anti-Israeli outbursts attributed to two Dutch diplomats by a Jewish weekly published in the Netherlands has left a residue of uncertainty and chagrin.

The episode surfaced last Thursday when Amsterdam's *Nieuw Israelitische Weekblad* quoted Michel Rentenaar, of the Dutch embassy in Tel Aviv, and Ferdinand Smit, a colleague assigned to Gaza, as having described Israel as an oppressive and ugly state.

Their comments, reportedly made during a visit to Ramallah, included charges that Israel's policies are anti-Palestinian, that the state is not democratic, and that it exploits terrorist incidents.

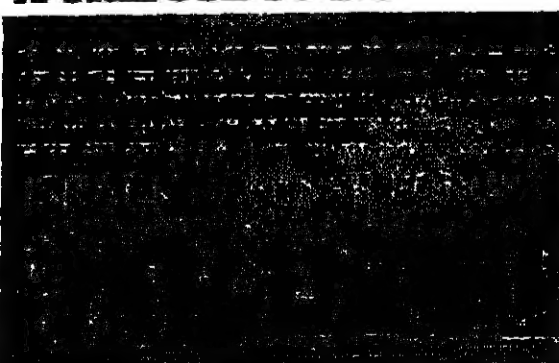
"They caused dismay and consternation in the Dutch Foreign Ministry," said the Foreign Ministry's Aviv Shiron.

Regrets and apologies followed in short order from the Hague.

However, professional skepticism was expressed by the dean of the Dutch foreign press corps in Israel, Salomon Bouman.

"This story is a storm in a teacup," he said, "because the man who quoted the two diplomats did not present himself to them as a journalist."

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Friedman brought to court

IDF soldier Noam Friedman (right) arrives at a military court yesterday under heavy guard to face trial on charges of attempted murder for shooting and wounding seven Palestinians in Hebron last January. Friedman has said he was trying to prevent an IDF pullout from the city. (Reuters)

Yarkon River polluters face prosecution

By LIAT COLLINS

Environment Ministry tests on sludge taken from the Yarkon riverbed show no signs of radioactivity above the natural background levels, but the ministry is beginning a campaign to find and prosecute polluters of the Yarkon.

Laboratory tests taken Sunday showed very small traces of iodine 131, which is not a health threat. This type of iodine is used in

hospitals in diagnostic procedures and treatment. Ministry officials said the laboratory results show no relation to the Maccabiah bridge collapse last month. The radioactivity found was at a level suggesting it stems from the natural radioactivity in the earth, water and air.

Yesterday, on the orders of Environment Minister Raphael Eitan, ministry officials toured the central region looking for bodies which could be polluting the Yarkon River with

sewage, fuels, pesticides and industrial waste. The polluters face prosecution and the ministry team will submit its findings in the coming weeks. A spokesman said the ministry also intends filing charges against factories and local authorities which are not sticking to a schedule for dealing with sewage or are not abiding by the standards of wastewater treatment established by the ministry as a condition for letting the water flow into rivers and streams.

Experts debate broadcasting ethics

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Responding to criticism about insensitivity in its coverage of tragic events, the broadcasting community turned inward yesterday to examine the professional, moral and ethical dilemmas which confront reporters in the field and editors and media executives in the studio.

Panelists in a symposium organized by the Channel 2 news department probed issues such as restraints which should be exercised in live broadcasts from sites of terrorist attacks, plane crashes or other disaster areas; intrusions on the grief of bereaved families; exposure and exploitation of children; respect for the dead and injured and placing the value of human life above all professional considerations.

Some comprehension of the extent to which these problems trouble both electronic and print media journalists could be gleaned from the large attendance at Beit

Sokolov where security guards barred latecomers from entering the crowded hall in which the overflow audience already lined the walls and sat on every available inch of floor.

Roni Daniel, Channel 2's military reporter who was the first to show footage of Shani Winter, the baby who survived the suicide bomb attack on the Apropo cafe in Tel Aviv last March, said that when he arrived on the scene, there was really nothing of visual interest except the baby. "That was the most heart-breaking picture. She became the symbol of the story."

With hindsight however, he would have avoided the close-up shot of the kit-bag bearing the name of one of the 73 soldiers killed in the helicopter collision in February this year. He hadn't expected to see the kit-bag when it appeared on the screen, and he had to make a snap decision as to whether or not to relate to it. In the general confusion, he had erred in judgement.

Daniel's boss Shalom Kital

would also have avoided close-up shots of the devastation wrought in November 1994 by the bomb explosion in a number 5 bus on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street.

While large segments of the public objected to the showing of such horrific footage Kital observed, there were people who thought that coverage by both Channels 1 and 2 of the recent bombing in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market had been relatively sterile. Some had even suggested, he said, that coverage was politically influenced in order to show that there was less damage resulting from terrorism under the Netanyahu administration than there had been under the administrations of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

While Chaim Yavin, veteran news anchor at Channel 1 attributed blood and guts coverage to technological development and ratings rivalry, Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum was of the opinion that if the IBA still had a monopoly, but with

the technology of today, "we'd do the same thing because of the CNNization of coverage."

There was consensus that CNN was setting the rules by which local channels function, and many things have changed as a result.

"Ten years ago, we never photographed soldiers crying at funerals," Kirschenbaum recalled. It wasn't that they didn't cry, he added, but they controlled themselves. Now there are new norms for military funerals he said, and the soldiers are ready as soon as they see the cameras.

IDF Spokesman Oded Ben Ami, a former IBA radio and television reporter, took exception to the way some reporters, cameramen and still photographers gathered like vultures around wounded soldiers transported from Lebanon to Rambam hospital. The wounded are often in a state of trauma he noted, and it's cruel for a reporter to ask if they knew any of the soldiers killed. Often the news that anyone was killed comes as a shock.

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Where to visit in Israel

GENERAL

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HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A year and a bit after the elections, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is putting us all on a dream-diet regime, comments *Yediot Aharanot's* business editor Sever Plotzker who brings us what he sees as Netanyahu's vision: partial peace, slow growth, old Middle East.

After the elections Netanyahu continued to cultivate, in speeches and interviews, a vision of grand fantasies, says Plotzker. This was a continuation of the Rabin government's estimate in 1995 of economic growth, 70 thousand new immigrants a year and receding inflation and unemployment, he says.

But two or three months ago Netanyahu underwent a change and began toning down his statements and the public's expectations. "Reality jumped on him suddenly with all its strength and ugliness," suggests Plotzker.

When Netanyahu says the Palestinians must "internalize" the change in Israel's government, notes Plotzker, "he is referring to us, as much as to them." Netanyahu is asking Israelis to internalize the descending expectations he is leading. "The improvements in Israel's status and condition will be small and slow, he is now saying. After one year Netanyahu and his aspirations have gone on a diet: a diet of harsh reality," states Plotzker.

Historic justice
Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert did historic justice to Shimon Peres, when he announced there was no place for the false Likud elec-

tion slogan "Peres will divide Jerusalem," even though it was too late to help Peres, writes Dan Margalit in *Ha'arets*.

Margalit notes that so far no one else in the Likud has dared admit this, for fear of arousing Netanyahu's wrath. But Peres deserves historic justice not only in Jerusalem, but on the things attributed to him concerning the Jordan Valley and Golan, where he marched in Rabin's footsteps.

Now that Netanyahu has entangled himself by offering withdrawal in exchange for security arrangements in the Golan without peace, as Labor leader Ehud Barak pointed out, when will Third Way leader Avigdor Kahalani offer his apology to Rabin and Peres, demands Margalit.

Bar-Ilan in, Biran out
Ha'arets's Akiva Eldar reveals how the foreign ministry's deputy director-general for the Middle East and peace process Yoav Biran, who was invited personally by Jordan's King Hussein to attend the ceremonial luncheon in Akaba last week, was shamefully prevented from taking his place at the table "for lack of room."

The foreign ministry, says Eldar, having learned that these kinds of mishaps do not occur in the Jordanian court, looked for the malfunction in the Prime Minister's Office. They found that Netanyahu's bureau chief, Moshe Leon, asked the Jordanians to allocate a seat for his buddy, advisor David Bar-Ilan. Sorry, all the places are taken, said the official in charge of ceremony. "Leon took a peek at

the list, pulled Biran out and pushed Bar-Ilan in. Levy heard and kept his mouth shut. How many times can one go to Beit Shean and return?" Netanyahu's promises, that Levy would conduct the talks with the Palestinians, are in as bad a shape as the negotiations, notes Eldar. Netanyahu did not ask Levy's opinion on freezing the Palestinians' tax funds and sources close to Levy say nothing has changed since the Sharon-Kichenette crisis. "Levy is winging on the shallowness of the ministers and grinding his teeth every time Danny Naveh conducts the government's foreign policy in talks with ambassadors, in the radio's morning news bulletins and television's evening news. If this situation continues, he will need an orthodontist," observes Eldar.

Baby you can drive my car
"For many Tel Avivians, Nablus is a very distant town, much farther away than Micronesia and far less fashionable," observes *Yediot Aharanot's* Nahum Bamea in his report of how the leaders of the city that doesn't sleep visited the city without supplies. "It was the first official visit of the State of Tel Aviv in the State of Nablus," he notes. The initiative came from Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and was supported by the Peres Institute for Peace, which brought in the European Union. The aim is eventually to sign a twin-city pact. Arriving under a heavy border police guard, Milo and his entourage were greeted by Nablus Mayor Ghassan Shaka at the Palestinian police barrier.

In the council hall, local officials spoke of the "difficult situation" under closure, cut off from supplies. When Milo mentioned the taxi driver who was murdered, Shaka replied that's what happens when people have no money and no work.

They decided to take a tour in Shaka's new Audi. Milo offered to drive. Enjoying himself hugely, he drove the Nablus mayor up and down the town, from the peak of Mount Gerizim to the slopes of Mount Eival, from the Balata refugee camp to the western exit. "Milo drove, and passersby waved. Milo: 'they gave tribute to their mayor, but admired him all the more when they saw he had a driver.'" At a lavish lamb luncheon in a country club outside town, which ruined the guests' diet, Milo learned that the planned kanafe (cheese cake in rosewater) had been canceled, when the hosts remembered it wouldn't be kosher. Milo laughed, remarking "the Tel Avivians who came here take care not to eat kanafe only on Tisha Be'av."

Lost cause
The Reform and Conservative movements' efforts to penetrate the Israeli religion market are doomed to failure, writes *Maariv's* Shalom Yerushalmi.

"The Reform and Conservative communities are not supported by the masses, and enjoy only media sympathy, especially on *Ha'arets's* Op-Ed page, and there's another good reason for the man in the street to oppose them," states Yerushalmi.

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After 158 years

Virginia military college to admit women cadets

By DAVID REED

LEXINGTON, Va. (AP) — Angela Pickett expects equal treatment from everyone at the Virginia Military Institute, including the barbers who specialize in buzzcuts.

"I'm glad we have to do it. It makes us more equal with the guys. If they were going to allow longer hair, that would make us stick out more," said Pickett, 17, of Kentucky. "That's the least of my worries."

She and 30 other women were ready to make history yesterday as 158 years of all-male tradition comes to an end. All hope to avoid the scandals that have beset The Citadel since Shannon Faulkner became the first woman to enroll in the South Carolina military college in 1995.

"All eyes are on VMI," Kevin Trujillo, this year's senior class president, told an assembly. "Some are just salivating at the thought of our failure. All it will take is the mistake of one person."

VMI spent six years and millions of dollars fighting federal efforts to force the state-supported school to accept women. The

Justice Department sued on behalf of a still-undecided woman who was denied admission.

Last summer, the Supreme Court ruled that if the school accepts tax money it must accept women. The school's board voted 9-8 to accept women rather than go private and stay all-male. Federal court orders require quarterly reports on the integration.

But VMI has refused to soften its rigid discipline. Women will wear the same drill uniforms and buzz cuts as the men. They will live in spartan barracks, just as their brethren do. No lipstick. No jewelry. No dating upperclassmen.

The state gave VMI \$5.1 million to help recruit women, hire extra staff and make necessary renovations, such as building separate bathrooms. VMI hired a female counselor and a female physical education instructor.

Last semester, with The Citadel reeling under national news reports that male cadets had tormented and driven away two female freshmen, Superintendent Joseph Bunting required all

1,200 cadets and 400 employees to complete a coed orientation and attend seminars on sexual harassment and fraternization.

Bunting said he has met many of the freshmen women and doubts they were attending "for dramatic effect, political reasons or on a whim or impulse." But some, women and men, will likely drop out, as freshmen do each year, though the pioneer women of the Class of 2001 bring with them impressive records.

Rachel Love, a high school cross-country runner from Pennsylvania, turned down an appointment to go to VMI. Kelly Sullivan of Georgia pilots her own plane and was her state's high school girls' discus champion.

Jen Jolin, a track star at Virginia's Highland County High School, mirrors the women's resolve to succeed at VMI.

"If they step across the line of what they're allowed to do like they did at The Citadel, I'm not going to quit," she said. "They're going to be out and I'm going to still be here."

Bunting's warning to the VMI men for any kind of misbehavior was explicit: immediate and severe punishment.

But older cadets worry that the in-your-face discipline meted out to "rats" — freshmen — may seem like sexual harassment when applied to women.

For six months, starting with tomorrow's initiation known as the "rat line," freshmen lives resemble Marine boot camp.

They must crisply salute upperclassmen and obey orders. If they incorrectly answer a question about VMI trivia, they pay on the spot with pushups. They must walk like automata, arms held straight and unmoving at their sides and chests tucked against their chests.

Upperclassmen have their orders, too: Be impersonal when disciplining cadets; any reference to gender is out of bounds.

"I think the cadets will handle themselves properly," said Pickett. "They've had to go through a lot of training, and their reputation is on the line as much as ours is."

US government awards sexual harassment victim \$672,000

By BILL MCALLISTER

WASHINGTON (The Washington Post) — A Northern Virginia woman who complained she was sexually harassed by officials of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia, has won a \$672,000 verdict from a federal district court jury there.

Lawyers familiar with sexual harassment cases said the verdict is one of the largest involving women who work for the federal government.

Vickie Galliber of Fairfax, who quit the center in disgust in 1996, may receive even more money from the Treasury Department when a judge rules on the issues of potentially lost pay and legal fees. The jury that heard her case last week awarded her \$72,000 in

back pay for her time at the center and \$600,000 in damages.

A health trainer, Galliber had compiled a record as an exemplary worker at the huge facility, which trains law officers from 72 federal agencies. But in 1994, Galliber complained that officials there rejected her for a promotion to instructor, giving the position to a lesser-qualified man.

Both Galliber and her lawyer, David Ross of Los Angeles, declined to discuss the case, citing instructions from the presiding judge.

A spokesman for the center, which predicted last week that the government would appeal the verdict, also declined to comment on the case yesterday.

Center Director Charles F. Rinkevich, a former police officer

who has headed the training facility since 1983, issued a statement Friday expressing displeasure with the verdict and asserting that the center had made a "conscious and determined effort to create a healthy and worker-friendly workplace which includes an environment in which discrimination of any kind is not tolerated."

Throughout the trial, the center maintained that Galliber was not qualified for the promotion and said she saw discrimination in every action that center officials took.

Galliber, who has a master's degree in sports medicine, testified, however, that center officials retaliated against her after she filed a complaint with Equal Employment Opportunity officials in Washington about her lost promotion.

First camel race excites Europeans

By ERIK KIRSCHBAUM

BERLIN (Reuters) — More than 30,000 curious spectators turned out at a Berlin horse track last weekend to watch 25 unpredictable camels take part in what the organizers said were the first camel races ever held in northern Europe.

Horse races they were not. Two camels sat down on the track in the middle of a warm-up lap and it took 15 minutes to get them moving again, while another stopped two meters from the finish and had to be prodded over the line by its jockey to win its race.

Nor could the crowd place bets. "It's a shame we can't place any bets," said Werner Kiesling, a 63-year-old retired teacher. "The camels would be ideal for bets because you never know what they are going to do in the middle of the race."

German animal-lovers had called for a boycott of the races, arguing that camels are not suited to northern European terrain or climate.

But that is not soon enough for Maria Veronica Sanchez, 42, who has lived with her lover in their homey town house for more than eight years. Because the man she considers her husband in all but legal title was unable to divorce his first wife, their child, Barbara, 5, is considered illegitimate.

Sanchez, who herself was born illegitimate and, she says, was stigmatized because of it, wants her daughter to feel no shame.

"This is hardest on the children," said Sanchez. "And it's got to stop."

Larrain, an opponent of changing the civil marriage codes. "We cannot stand by and watch the moral integrity of this country decline."

Analysts say that although supporters have votes to pass the divorce law in the lower house of Congress, the Senate — which includes eight "designated" lawmakers appointed by the military — poses a more significant barrier. However, the designated senators are expected to be voted out of office in December, opening the way for final approval.

gitimate children and of couples living together out of wedlock. It's time we moved the marriage laws of Chile into the modern world."

Under the military dictatorship, the Catholic Church was seen by many as protector of the people, speaking out against abuses committed by the government of Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Now, experts say, the church in effect is calling in its chit, demanding Chileans adhere to the strict marriage laws.

"It serves no purpose to our society to destroy the institution of the family," said Sen. Hernan

Chile debates allowing divorce

By ANTHONY FAJOLA

SANTIAGO (Washington Post) — During 16 years of violent marriage, physician Jimena Letelier, 39, became one of her own patients, she said, stitching her own wounds and tending her bruises after brutal beatings by her husband. But a few months ago, when he began hitting her with iron chains in front of their four children, Letelier said, she finally mustered the courage to leave him.

In Chile, though, that is easier said than done.

"I can't divorce him," said Letelier, who specializes in pediatrics. "The law doesn't allow it. No matter what I try to do, I will always belong to him. ... It makes me sick."

Letelier's situation is an extreme example in the debate over divorce raging in this nation, where the influence of the Roman Catholic Church and staunch conservatism of the former military government have kept civil marriage codes virtually unchanged — and divorce illegal — since the 1880s.

Legislators are debating whether to revamp the marriage laws, which critics say are outdated and carry a high social cost. The form of legal separation permitted in Chile is time-consuming and costly to obtain, making it extremely difficult for battered women to leave violent spouses. Even if couples do obtain a legal separation, neither spouse may marry again.

"In Chile, a mistake in marriage can cost you the rest of your life," said Nury Fuentes, a women's rights attorney in Santiago who represents Letelier.

The strict codes have had the ironic side effect of creating a massive sub-society composed of Chilean couples who "live in sin." It is estimated nearly half of all married adults have separated unofficially, many living with new partners without legal ties.

This has raised the birth rate of illegitimate children — who in Chile are barred from becoming military officers or holding high police positions — to almost 40 percent, the highest in Latin America.

"We cannot continue with the system we have now. ... It is absolutely despicable and dangerous, and it leaves women and children totally unprotected," President Eduardo Frei said in a recent interview.

"I think that now there is a great awareness in Chilean society after many years [during which] there was a lack of debate over cultural values," said Frei, who has thrown his support behind a divorce bill being debated in the lower house of the National Congress. "We are finally looking at this issue with a mind to change it."

There is a loophole under which spouses willing to lie about where they were living at the time of their wedding can obtain an annulment, since couples must be wed in districts in which they reside. But this process is expensive, involving records searches and attorneys' fees, effectively limiting the option to the wealthy.

"There are conservatives who believe that the people of Chile are children who must be told what is socially acceptable," said Congresswoman Mariana Aylwin, sponsor of the current bill to legalize divorce, which polls show 70 percent of Chileans support.

"But they are failing to see the reality of modern Chile. We have an enormous rate of adultery, ille-

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Mir's main computer fails in space

By MITCHELL LANDSBERG

MOSCOW (AP) — The main computer on the Mir space station failed today during a cargo ship docking, sending the problem-plagued space station wobbling in its orbit and forcing the crew to shut off central systems.

Russian space officials said the problem was not life-threatening for the Russian-American crew. But they acknowledged the situation was serious and said the Mir's orbit will be "chaotic" until the problem is fixed.

"It's not extraordinary, because we've had such situations earlier," said Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov. "It's not a super-complex situation."

However, Solovyov said flight controllers don't know the cause of the failure. He said the breakdown would force yet another delay in a long-awaited mission to repair damage caused by collision in June.

NASA officials at Russian Mission Control also said they did not consider the situation dangerous.

"It's a situation that we'll watch carefully, but we're not worried," said Kathleen Maliga, a spokeswoman for the US space agency.

As a result of the computer failure, Mir's solar panels are no longer held in proper orientation to the sun, which will deprive the station of its main power source.

To conserve power, the crew has shut down most of the station's operating systems. Life support systems did not appear to be in any danger — even without the main computer, the crew has enough oxygen and food.

"Unfortunately, right now the system of station orientation is not operational," Solovyov said. "The computer will be switched off until morning. There will be no altitude control at all. It will be chaotic. We don't know the consequences of this chaotic flight."

To maintain some control of the station, Solovyov said the crew can use thruster engines on the newly docked Progress resupply ship and the Soyuz capsule that brought the current team to the Mir earlier this

month.

Asked how the two Russian cosmonauts and their American colleague were faring during the crisis, Solovyov said, "Well, they're trained to deal with such consequences."

The computer failure occurred during the docking of a Progress cargo ship. On instructions from Mission Control, Mir commander Anatoly Solovyov switched off the automatic docking system and successfully moored the vessel manually.

"The commander of the crew immediately took charge and started manual operations," the Mission Control chief said.

Today's manual docking was the same kind of maneuver that on June 25 resulted in the worst accident in the space outpost's 11-year history. In that incident, a similar cargo ship

went out of control during a practice manual docking, crashing into the station's Spektr module.

The collision forced the crew to seal off the depressurized Spektr module and disconnect electric cables leading to its solar batteries, reducing the station's power by about half.

The crash and power loss were the worst in a long series of misfortunes to beset the Mir. Others included a fire and breakdowns in the oxygen and cooling systems.

The new Progress ship, which brought supplies to Mir in July, was disconnected to make room for a Soyuz capsule carrying the new crew. It has been flying 43 miles from the Mir.

After the old Russian crew returned to Earth in another Soyuz

last week, the new docking port was fired for the Progress.

From its new position, the Progress's engines and its fuel were expected to help to correct the station's position in orbit. The ship would also protect the steel docking unit of the Kvant-1 module from being overheated by the sun.

The Progress — and the trash it is now carrying — will be abandoned to burn up in a descent to Earth before the next Progress ship arrives in October.

The crew aboard Mir had planned a series of spacewalks to fix the damage caused by the June crash.

The first is supposed to take place tomorrow.

In that operation, mission commander Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov plan to venture into

the dark and airless Spektr module to reconnect power cables leading to its solar panels. If successful, the mission would restore the Mir to 90 percent of its normal power supply.

A second mission, a spacewalk outside the Mir, is aimed at pinpointing and possibly patching up the holes in the Spektr.

All together, about six spacewalks may be needed to complete the repair job, depending on the location and severity of the ruptures.

The crew flew around the Mir in the Soyuz escape capsule on Friday to film the outside of the damaged Spektr.

They reported no significant findings, but today they were planning to transmit to Earth pictures they hope will allow them to find the damage.



All smiles

Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) shakes hands with his Chechen counterpart Aslan Maskhadov in the Kremlin yesterday. The Chechen president was expected to ask Russia for some form of official diplomatic recognition as a step towards ultimate sovereignty for Chechnya. (AP)

AFTER COMMUNISM

Central Europeans demanding right to visit US

By DEAN E. MURPHY

PRAGUE (LA Times) — Maybe it wouldn't be so awful in nicer weather, but it rained buckets all night long. The sleeping bags were cold and soggy. It was impossible to get a comb through your hair. And there wasn't a warm cup of coffee to be had.

By sunrise, the dream of visiting America for 70 Czechs recently camped on a narrow sidewalk outside the US Embassy here was fast becoming a nightmare.

"This is humiliating," said Eva Svozilova, 20, a weary-eyed computer technician hoping to spend two weeks in Los Angeles next month. "It is crazy having to do this, in the rain and all. But what other choice do we have?"

Spurred by unusually cheap air fares, newfound prosperity and a fascination with things American, a record number of Central Europeans want to vacation in the United States this summer. But because of a highly restrictive US policy on tourist visas, untold numbers are not making it beyond the consular offices of American embassies.

Tough visa requirements are not new for Central Europeans — they have a well-documented habit of overstaying visits, US officials say.

But this summer there has been an unexpected change in attitude among the trans-Atlantic travelers. Following the decision last month to invite the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland into NATO, residents of the three countries are demanding to be treated as close family — not the bumbling cousins of yesterday unwelcome at the American dinner table.

People around the world complain about US visa policies, the indignity of waiting in long lines and the seeming arbitrariness of consular officials.

But upcoming NATO membership has transformed the ever-sensitive debate into a simple issue of fairness for many Central Europeans: If we are good enough to risk our lives with you on the battlefield, they say, we should be good enough to share your campgrounds and theme parks.

"You cannot be accepted as military allies and have travel restrictions at the same time — what kind of partnership can that be?" said Jerzy Borowczak, 40, the Solidarity union leader at the bankrupt Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland. "If they had to choose, I think Poles would prefer if the Americans changed their visa policy rather than invited us to join NATO."

Outside the US Embassy in Prague, a chorus of groans erupted from the soaked crowd when the issue of fairness was raised.

"Americans can come here with-

out a visa, and there are thousands of them in Prague," said Jana Zajicova, 28, a philosophy student from the Czech capital. "But we have to sleep on the ground. It is degrading. I don't know if I still want to go to the United States after this — NATO allies or not."

Zajicova, like many first-time US visa applicants here, is young, relatively well-off and an experienced traveler. Unlike the generations of Iron Curtain vacationers before them, a growing number of Central Europeans are enjoying the benefits of the economic changes, having already toured the Roman ruins, swum the Spanish beaches and hiked the Swiss Alps. America is the next great adventure — and if it is slightly beyond their means, there is always a bank loan or a generous employer, they say.

"I have an invitation here from the branch of our computer firm in Sunnyvale," said Svozilova, who was awarded a company-paid excursion to Los Angeles with several fellow employees. "But still, I've been here since 10 o'clock last night."

An American diplomat in Central Europe said there has been a "hysterical reaction" to the visa requirement among recent travelers, some of whom have complained to consular officials that it violates their basic human rights, an appeal commonly invoked in the past against Communist travel restrictions.

Although more tourist visas are being issued than ever, the volume of would-be visitors to the United States — about 30 percent higher than last year here in the Czech Republic — has inevitably led to more refusals, according to US officials.

In the past few months, about 5% of Czech visa applicants have been rejected; the rate typically fluctuates between 2% and 10%.

Michael Zantovsky, until recently the Czech ambassador in Washington, said the visa quandary is among the most vexing issues in relations between the NATO invitees and their new American ally.

US officials say they understand the frustration among law-abiding foreign visitors.

But a country's membership in NATO has no effect on US immigration policies. Until the 1980s, all foreigners (except Canadians and Bermudians) required a visa to enter the United States, and even today, residents of three longtime NATO members — Turkey, Greece and Portugal — must still obtain them.

Under the 10-year-old Visa Waiver Pilot Program, tourists and business travelers from 25 countries worldwide are allowed visa-free entrance to the United States. But US officials said none of the

Central European countries meet the program's strict criteria, which include low rates for both visa refusals and visa violations.

"We are grateful for the NATO alliance, and heartened by the will of those people joining it, but we still have immigration laws," said Brian Jordan, spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, which must approve countries admitted to the waiver program.

"These [Central European] countries are part of a general problem of visa 'overstayers' — people who choose to stay longer in the United States without extending their visas," he said. "People who overstay their visas only hurt their fellow countrymen."

The INS estimates that there are

about 70,000 undocumented Poles in the United States, about 40,000 of whom have overstayed their tourist visas; last year, more than 44,000 of the 117,500 nonimmigrant visa applicants from Poland were refused.

Although numbers are much lower for the Czech Republic and Hungary, US officials say residents of all three countries fit the general pattern of high-risk travelers: They come from places where salaries are a fraction of those in America.

"The relative economic parity between the United States and countries like Germany makes it clear the average German isn't going to drive a taxi in New York City," said a US Embassy official. "That changes dramatically

when the taxi driver earns more than a doctor or lawyer back home. If you are only making \$3,000 a year and you say you are going to the United States for vacation, we have to ask, 'How are you going to pay for Disneyland?'"

But critics say U.S. immigration practices are not always so clear-cut. Central European violations are meaningless, they say, when compared with the 2.7 million undocumented Mexicans in the United States. Even among Europeans, disparities can be inexplicable.

According to the INS, Ireland is second only to Poland in the number of undocumented U.S. residents from Europe, yet Ireland was admitted to the waiver program in 1995. "I don't know why," Jordan said.

Column One

In Fujimori's side, an Israeli thorn

By Thomas O'Dwyer



Peru is no longer a democracy. The authority for that statement is no less than the former secretary-general of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar. At the center of the storm of those who agree with him is an Israeli-born media crusader and a sturdy president of dubious origin.

Of course Perez de Cuellar two years ago, so he is unlikely to be too enthusiastic about his rival. Still, it is a serious charge leveled at his own country by a respected world figure and therefore worthy of note. "We are a country run by an autocratic regime," Perez de Cuellar added in his recent comments.

It begins to look more and more as if he is right.

But then, if anyone outside Peru noticed, Fujimori already showed signs of authoritarian disease in 1992, when he dissolved Congress and enhanced his own executive powers. As always in South America, there was suspicion of an army lurking in the shadows and since his rise from obscurity Fujimori has always been a close friend of these all-too-Latin strong-arm merchants.

Almost as typically sinister as a South American general in comic opera uniform and dark shades is the shadowy figure of the "intelligence chief."

Apparatus
Voilà! Meet Fujimori's own powerful adviser (every insecure leader must have one) Vladimir Montesinos, on a reported fat salary of half a million dollars. That's for advising — and for heading what is euphemistically referred to as the "intelligence machine" — that all too human "apparatus" capable of grinding undesirables out of existence.

It was a military and intelligence operation that last propelled Peru into international headlines in April with the dramatic end to the long siege of the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima by Tupac Amaru terrorists.

Fujimori and his tough guys won a lot of praise and respect for tunneling under the terrorists' lair, blowing them away, and freeing the hostages in an operation that would have done credit to Arnie Schwarzenegger.

Fair enough. But the world is also getting more than a little sick of shadowy state terrorists and those who either lead them or are run by them — a distinction often hard to make.

What Peruvians — and foreign investors — are getting more sick of is a leader who was elected by popular vote but who resorts to autocracy and bending of the constitution when the popularity wanes. Like Mr. Fujimori, for example.

The Israeli
One of the most strident opponents of increasing Fujimorism has been a television station run by Israel-born Baruch Ivcher. Goaded by Ivcher's relentless coverage of a high-profile torture case, Fujimori

has added harassment of the media to his growing list of anti-democratic sins.

Fujimori is attempting to corral general press freedoms, as well as specifically and childishly attempting to revoke the Ivcher's Peruvian citizenship.

Now there's an irony. Just as he was winding up his usual authoritarian toys of wiretapping, spying on the citizens, harassing journalists and political opponents, Fujimori has fallen foul of an accusation that his birth documents were falsified to show he was born in Peru.

As in the United States, birth on native soil is required of anyone seeking the highest office of state. The reports suggest Fujimori's Japanese parents may have altered the documents. He denies it, but if the charge is substantiated, he would have no choice but to resign — or openly overthrow the constitution.

As in most poor countries, the esoteric ramblings of intellectuals, politicians, and media gurus are a parlor game for the elite which is about as relevant to the mass of people as last week's meal. Their hero is the one who gets things done and assures them of today's food for their families.

Non-deliverable
In that test, Fujimori has had them fooled for almost eight years. His much-praised hitching of the stagnant economy to global free-market promises promised growth, wealth and employment for all.

It has dawned on the poorer classes that the promises may be stamped "non-deliverable." Recent polls show Fujimori's popular support has plunged since April from 75 percent after the Lima hostage crisis to 25 percent. The reason is not birth certificates, or constitutional tinkering. It's bread and jobs.

Those buzz-worthy policies — privatization, free currency, free trade, foreign investment, worked in Lima. The tower blocks rose in already uptown city areas, the rich got richer.

The poor stayed where they were, if they weren't sliding backwards. Figures for last year put the number of Peruvians below the poverty level at near 50 percent. Three years ago, it was 46 percent.

Modernizing factories with foreign investment allows the owners to leapfrog from smoke-stack to digital-do in one go. In other words, in come the robots, and out go the unskilled workers by the thousands. It may also be dawning on ordinary Peruvians that democratic freedoms are not just a luxury the middle classes can afford while dawdling over a cocktail. There is a connection between a failing democracy and a failing economy.

That is why thousands have taken time off their already hard lives to gather outside Baruch Ivcher's crusading television station. Even in a poor country, when the lie grows bigger, truth becomes recognized as one of the most precious national commodities.

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Caught in the cross fire

The separation of church and state issue spawns violence in a small German village

By WILLIAM DROZDIAK

BRUCKMUEHL, Germany (The Washington Post) — When he decided last year to challenge the powerful role of the Roman Catholic church in state schools, Josef Obermeier never imagined that his antagonists would try to make his life hell.

Within days, he began receiving the first of a stream of anonymous death threats. Other phone callers warned that his daughter would be kidnapped. Motorists cruising down his street tossed burning packages onto his lawn. Finally, a neighbor planted a 10-foot-tall crucifix in front of his house — and then obtained a court order prohibiting Obermeier from removing it.

Such events had never occurred in this tiny Bavarian village, a serene pastoral community 25 miles southeast of Munich where respect for law and order is revered as much as sausage and beer. But once Obermeier dared complain about the crucifix hanging on the wall of his daughter's classroom and pressed his argument in the courts, the taciturn electrician became the target of a vicious hate campaign.

Obermeier's freedom-of-religion case is now wending its way through Germany's legal system, and nobody will be surprised if it winds up in the highest court in the land. For years, German legal experts have been wracking their brains trying to resolve one of the biggest conundrums of postwar German democracy: the inter-

twined responsibilities of church, school and state.

The controversy is assuming new urgency because as Germany evolves into a multicultural society, a growing number of non-Christian children are entering German schools and rejecting the Roman Catholic or Lutheran principles that form an integral part of education programs.

More than 1.7 million foreigners now live in Germany, a greater number than in any other European country. They include Turkish and Iranian Moslems, Russian Jews and Asian Buddhists who consider the Christian heritage taught in German schools anathema to their ancestral backgrounds.

In addition, many secular Germans are questioning why organized religion should play so central a role in their political culture. The state collects a church tax to pay the salaries of clergy, which for archbishops can be as high as \$130,000 a year. Clerics sit on influential advisory councils, including those that approve the content of radio and television programs.

While the United States, France and other Western democracies decided long ago what to render unto Caesar, Germany has found it difficult to break the historical bonds linking religion, education and politics. The nation's two most powerful conservative parties — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union — have deep Christian

roots and draw much of their political support from churches.

Since gaining power 15 years ago, Kohl's governing alliance has been solicitous about protecting church interests. The government has rebuffed efforts to curtail a church-support tax that Germans who declare their religion must pay and has reaffirmed the influence of religious representatives on political and academic councils. Kohl himself has vowed to preserve the identity of Germany as "a bastion of Christian civilization."

With Parliament unable or unwilling to establish clear guidelines in a modern unified Germany, the task has fallen to a legal system that has become embroiled in volatile conflicts affecting society's basic institutions.

Two years ago, Germany's supreme court struck down a Bavarian law requiring the display of crucifixes in classrooms because it violated a constitutional requirement of "religious neutrality" in public institutions. The court found that while schoolroom display of the crucifix is not illegal, nobody should be forced to study in the presence of religious symbols.

The ruling was the culmination of a 10-year crusade by Bavarian artist Ernst Seler, who said he did not want to send his three children to schools in which they would be horrified by what he called the "image of a bleeding, half-naked male corpse" that depicted Jesus Christ dying on the cross.

Far from settling the issue, the

decision provoked an unprecedented wave of public protest across Bavaria, Germany's second most populous state with 11 million citizens and a strong Roman Catholic heritage.

State Premier Edmund Stoiber accused the court of issuing "an edict of intolerance that wounded the very soul of Bavaria." The Christian Social Union, which dominates Bavarian politics, organized a protest of 30,000 people to demonstrate the depth of disenchantment with the supreme court, which has long been extolled as the principal guardian of German democracy.

Stoiber's government then began to work around the court ruling. It amended the law to allow for the removal of a crucifix from a classroom or public building if somebody who objects gives sufficiently valid reasons for taking it down.

Enter Josef Obermeier. When he escorted his 6-year-old daughter, Yasmine, to class on her first day at the local public school, Obermeier said he did not want his child to study in the shadow of the crucifix and asked that it be removed. That is when his troubles started.

"I gave what I thought were sensible reasons," Obermeier said in an interview at his home. "I told the school that a religious symbol has no place in a classroom, especially if it represents a church that is anti-democratic in nature and practices sex discrimination by refusing equal rights to women." When the schoolmaster demanded further explanation, Obermeier said he felt the

church had no place in school because the Catholic hierarchy appeared to be anti-science in the way it once treated Galileo as a heretic and refused to recognize that the Earth is round instead of flat.

Obermeier's rationale, he says, was rejected as "too polemical and not sufficiently personal." Local courts backed the school's decision, so Obermeier decided to march the case up the legal ladder.

The Bavarian state court is expected to make a decision soon, and Obermeier says his lawyers already are preparing an appeal to the nation's supreme court in Karlsruhe.

"How can any school or court decide that reasons must be personal and not political?" Obermeier asked. "It's like saying it is only acceptable to object to Hitler because of his ugly mustache and not because of the way he persecuted Jews and other minorities."

The publicity that has been focused on the village embarrasses Johannes Mangels, Bruckmühl's school director. He complains that too many outsiders do not recognize the unique circumstances in Bavaria that have bred an intimate partnership of religion, education and politics.

"We are talking about a special situation," Mangels said. "This is not just a question of religion. It's all about cultural traditions going back more than a thousand years, and the crucifix is one of our most cherished historical symbols."

Vanity UnFair?

By HOWARD KURTZ

WASHINGTON (Washington Post) — As editor of the *Wall Street Journal's* editorial page, Robert Bartley is accustomed to squeals of outrage from those who have been stuck by his razor-sharp quill.

Now the tables have been turned. Bartley used his column last week to slash at *Vanity Fair* magazine —

whose target, not so coincidentally, was two of his bosses: Peter Kann, chairman of parent company Dow Jones, and his wife, Karen Elliott House, president of international operations.

House, wrote Bartley, "is not only a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist but, even more impressive, a stellar business executive." He accused the "editors of radical chic magazines" of "attacking women to run down conservative men." What's fascinating here is that such media warfare is generally conducted behind the scenes or limited to tart letters to the editor.

But all bets were off after Robert Sam Anson's piece "In the Company of Sharks" portrayed Kann as a weak manager and House as an overly ambitious shrew.

Robert Walsh, *Vanity Fair's* legal affairs editor, dismissed the Bartley column as "a disgrace" and "a press release" for Dow Jones.

Bartley acknowledged it was unusual for him to use the editorial page to go to bat for his Dow Jones colleagues. "I suppose that among our readers some will think that corporate loyalty was the only reason I wrote this," he said. "But I think the piece stands on its own merits, and that most readers will take it that way."

"This is not to deny corporate loyalty and personal friendship played a role. A large number of people at the *Journal* shared my sense of injustice, and a number of people have sent messages saying they're glad I could express it because I have a license for opinion," Bartley says he told House that "I was going to defend her whether she wanted it or not."

Bartley began his column by assailing *Vanity Fair* for digging

into the love life of New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, but soon got to the real issue. He noted that Richard Tofel, Dow Jones's communications director, had fired off a letter listing 21 alleged errors in the piece.

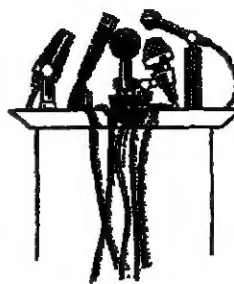
Walsh insists the article was "vigorously fact-checked." *Vanity Fair* agreed to correct three minor errors, along the lines of having called the *Journal's* former Washington bureau chief "Mark" Miller, not Norman "Mike" Miller.

One of the more acrimonious disputes involves *Vanity Fair's* suggestion, flatly denied by House, that as a State Department reporter she was sleeping with her sources. One supposed incident took place in 1977 while Brzezinski was staying at the late Pamela Harriman's home. *Vanity Fair* says Harriman saw House "creeping across her Georgetown garden" to a surreptitious rendezvous with Brzezinski (identified only as President Carter's senior foreign policy adviser). But Tofel says Brzezinski moved out of Harriman's home well before he met House, and that he continues to deny the incident. *Vanity Fair* says Brzezinski has made no public complaint about the article.

An e-mail correspondence between Tofel and Walsh grew increasingly impolite. "I've had quite enough of your condescending tone... I look forward to not hearing from you again," Walsh wrote. "I'm sorry that you find my doggedness about trying to get your magazine to print the truth tiresome," Tofel shot back.

Nor is there any love lost at higher levels. Disparaging the editor of *Vanity Fair*, Bartley told a reporter: "Graydon Carter's formula is built on the discovery that there's a market for viciousness."

"Vince Foster's family might well say the same about the *Wall Street Journal's* editorial page," Carter replied, recalling the White House aide who committed suicide after being pummeled by Bartley's page. "In truth, there is probably not much of a market for viciousness, but there is one for tough, uncompromising journalism." Good thing these guys are armed only with words.



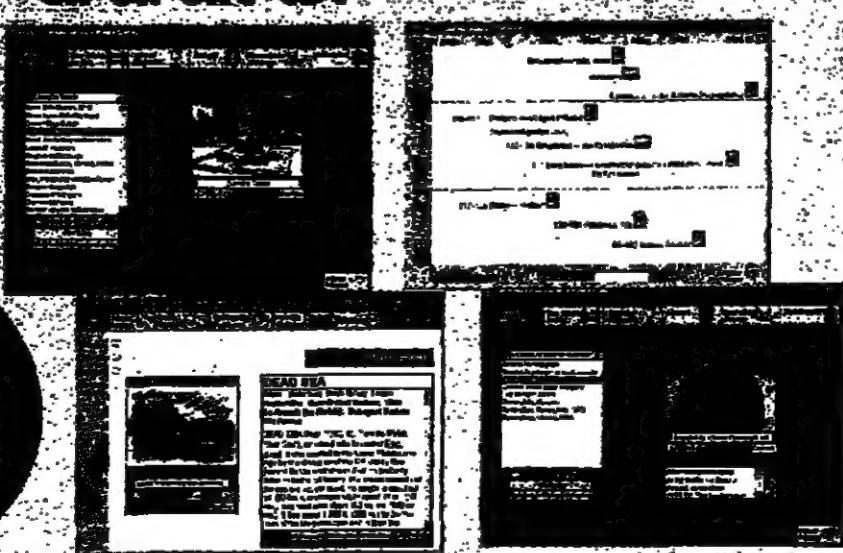
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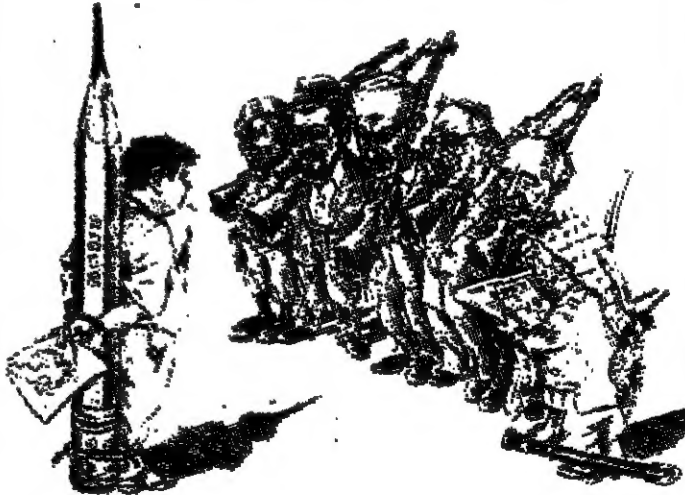
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Inflammatory warning

The news is the sky is falling, but each government ministry has its own version: The generals warn of lack of readiness for the next war, the education minister warns of school's opening being postponed, and now the labor minister warns of rising unemployment.

Scare tactics are a time-honored tool of ministries fighting for their slice of the pie in a time of budget cuts. Whether the problems are real or exaggerated, the solutions rarely are just a matter of increasing budgets.

In the case of the large budgets for defense and education, there is no doubting the high priority that must be attached to each, and that certain areas are underfunded. But if the needs are as dire as the ministers paint them to be, then one might expect an intensive effort to root out the inevitable waste that exists within a large ministry to assure funding for absolutely critical programs. Instead, the only solution presented is a bigger budget. Would it not be refreshing if ministers were to present before the cabinet the internal savings and cuts they were willing to make that would at least partially fund their priority projects?

In the case of the figures released this week by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, not only was the alarm sounded possibly exaggerated, but their effect may be detrimental to the very people whose plight is being highlighted. The ministry released figures showing a growing number of job seekers, up 1.1 percent in July to 145,000. What they did not point out is that "job seekers" is not the same as unemployed, and the number of unemployed has not risen significantly.

The figures for job seekers do not distinguish between a young person entering the labor force who approaches an employment agency and people who have been unemployed for a significant amount of time. When pressed, Labor Ministry officials agree that the expected unemployment level this year will be about 7.5 percent. This is up from the low of 6.5 percent reached in the second quarter of 1996, but lower than most industrialized economies in Europe.

According to figures published in *The Economist*, France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden all have higher unemployment rates than Israel. This is particularly remarkable given the fact that Israel has absorbed about 750,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union since 1989. This is not to say that there is no unemployment problem, or that the current level is acceptable. It does indicate, however, that Labor and Social Affairs

Minister Eli Yishai's warning of a "social explosion" was unnecessarily inflammatory.

Predictably, Manufacturers Association chairman Dan Propper took the opportunity to call for Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel to resign, as if his responsible monetary policy had caused massive unemployment. In fact, the attempt of budget-hungry ministers and credit-hungry industrialists to saddle Frenkel with the blame for unemployment has no economic basis. The Hobson's choice that is commonly presented between high inflation and high unemployment is a false one.

Of the six industrialized economies that have dramatically brought down inflation in recent times, half saw unemployment rise, while the other half kept unemployment under control. According to most economists, inflation and unemployment must be fought separately — inflation by keeping a tight rein on the money supply, and unemployment by maximizing the flexibility within the job market.

In Spain, France, and Germany a combination of high barriers to firing workers (which made companies reluctant to hire), high unemployment insurance, and high minimum wages reduced the flexibility of the labor market, leading to high unemployment. In the United States, Great Britain, and Holland, more flexible policies allowed those countries to reduce inflation and fight unemployment at the same time.

Economists rate Israel as somewhere in between the two groups of countries in terms of labor market flexibility. If Yishai and others were serious about fighting unemployment, they would be clamoring to do what has worked in other countries. As Yishai correctly points out, the main problem is not in the cities, but the periphery. But the way to address the higher unemployment in the Negev and Galilee is not by pumping in more government projects, but by improving transportation access, education and training, increasing competition in the economy, and increasing the flexibility of the job market.

In Jewish tradition, the highest form of charity is not giving money, but helping someone find a job. Behind every percentage point of dry statistics are thousands of people whose lives are on hold, and who are desperate to begin building their future.

Those who sound the alarm in their name bear a responsibility to advance solutions that are not just politically self-serving exercises in bureaucratic bloating, but that show a willingness to prioritize in an era of tight budgets.



Of peace and partners

Listening closely to a speech given by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the National Defense College last week, I told myself that George Orwell would have been proud of the arguments he made against the Oslo peace process. Only where war is peace and peace is war could it be said that our agreement with the Palestinians has led to an escalation of violence and created cities of refuge for terrorists in the PA.

The Oslo accords achieved a twofold purpose: they minimized the danger of a surprise offensive against Israel; and they removed the PLO from the list of terrorist organizations attacking Israel. The agreement between Israel and the Palestinians paved the way to the peace treaty with Jordan and led to the budding ties with the Persian Gulf and North Africa. Our strategic position in the region has changed radically since Operation Desert Storm, when we were not even allowed to join the allies fighting Iraq.

Anyone nostalgic for the pre-Oslo days should remember that most of our victims are IDF soldiers killed in battle, some 19,000 casualties; if we do succeed in avoiding the danger of another war, we have averted future casualties on this scale. Neither is the prime minister painting an accurate picture when he calls the PA-controlled cities a refuge for terrorists.

During the years of the intifada we were habitually treated to the spectacle of organized marches by masked demonstrators in the West Bank in which arms-bearing teenagers set fire to the Israeli flag and shouted abuse at photographers. The IDF was nowhere to be

YOSSI BEILIN

seen; just before Oslo we no longer had any real control in many villages in the territories.

THE OSLO process gave us a partner. For the first time in many years we can coordinate our

Netanyahu risks going down in history as the leader who extinguished the light at the end of the tunnel

actions with the Palestinians, conduct investigations and joint patrols with them, as well as level accusations and receive answers. If our ally enjoys a secure status, the solutions it proposes will be effective; weakening our partner will cut off his oxygen and we will lose him, along with the chance of any real cooperation.

Israel has witnessed all too many acts of vile terrorism, with a great number of casualties: the bus at Avivim in 1970, the Munich massacre and the attack on Lod airport in 1972. We will never forget the slaughter in Ma'alot in 1974, the Savoy Hotel in Tel Aviv in 1975, the coastal-road bus attack in 1978 and bus 405 in 1989, the intifada victims and the Argentina bombings; many more were killed and wounded in kidnappings in our cities.

Anyone who starts counting

the acts of violence since the Oslo process began should know the facts: in the long stretch between 1956 and 1967, 12 soldiers but Netanyahu would surely not propose a return to pre-'67 borders.

The new situation created by the Six Day War led to an escalation of Palestinian violence in Israel and the rest of the world as the cycle of war continued unabated: we were forced to muster for battle every seven or eight years, paying a terrible price.

The change came about after Camp David and Menachem Begin's successful peace agreement with Egypt, and was followed by the Madrid Conference during Yitzhak Shamir's premiership and the Oslo accords and peace agreement with Jordan under Yitzhak Rabin's leadership.

It is a heavy responsibility that Netanyahu bears. Public memory is notoriously short; he can present peace as a security risk, lay the blame on the other side and lead us into a situation in which Hamas terrorists will be joined by others and the threat of war looms ever greater.

He might, however, make courageous decisions and lead Israel out of the vicious cycle and international isolation. He might conceivably admit that our partner, admittedly no saint, is better than none.

Some people might believe Netanyahu's words that peace encourages violence, but he risks going down in history as the leader who extinguished the light at the end of the tunnel. It is his decision to make.

The writer is a Labor MK.

It's time for the truth

The pictures taken last Wednesday of the empty graves of several Yemenite infants, who had allegedly died in the early 1950s are a stark reminder: there are still some dark corners in the early history of the state on which light must be shed.

It is not just for the sake of the infants' parents that the full truth must finally be uncovered — though they are the first who deserve to know the truth. One of the bases of a healthy democratic society is the ability to contend with the truth, even if it is a bitter and unpleasant one. Just as it was important for us to finally admit that, during the War of Independence, inhabitants of certain Arab towns and villages were evicted from their homes and banished by our forces, so we should come to terms with the fact that apparently not all the Yemenite and other new-immigrant infants reported to have died in the early 1950s, did in fact die.

The Yemenite children affair relates to about 650 immigrant infants who allegedly disappeared between the years 1949 and 1954. According to official reports, these children suffered from various diseases and malnutrition, and were taken from transit camps for treatment in hospitals, where they died.

However — so it was claimed — since their parents could not be located due to the prevalent bureaucratic confusion and the ignorance of the parents, and since in many cases their names were unknown, they were buried anonymously.

In the late 1950s people started wondering aloud whether all the children had actually died. These

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

doubts were based on the fact that records existed of children who had recovered in hospital and were then handed over for adoption, since their parents could not be located. The issue became public in 1966, when parents who had been informed that their children had died, started receiving mobilization orders for them from the IDF.

A private investigation was

Why are the graves of the Yemenite children empty?

opened by some of the parents, and in 1967 an administrative examination committee — the Bahalal-Minkovsky Committee — was officially appointed to investigate the issue. This committee examined the cases of 342 missing children, including 307 Yemenites. The committee managed to find records concerning 320 of them, of whom it was determined with certainty that 316 had died. The fate of 22 remained a mystery.

A second administrative committee — the Shalgi Committee — was appointed by then-prime minister Shamir in 1988 to continue the investigation. This committee, which reported its findings in 1994, examined the cases of 609 children (including the 342 examined by the previous committee), 90 of whom it was unable to trace. It concluded that there was no evidence of criminal acts around the disappearance of

these children, or of illegal adoptions, though it did find that the authorities had frequently acted condescendingly toward immigrants from Moslem countries.

Neither the parents nor other representatives of the Yemenite community (including the current Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani) were satisfied with the findings of this committee, and in January 1995 a National Commission of Inquiry, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Yehuda Cohen, was appointed to deal with the issue.

ONE OF the problems surrounding the inquiry has been that various extremist individuals and groups — such as Rabbi Uzi Meshulam, who is currently doing time, together with some of his followers, after being convicted on criminal charges — have tried to make political hay of the affair. Meshulam has claimed that no fewer than 4,500 children disappeared. He accuses what he calls the "Ashke-Nazi" establishment of selling many of the children for large sums of money to Jews abroad, and of carrying out medical experiments on others.

Another problem is that some of the people who treated the sick children are reluctant to talk — some out of shame, others because they maintain the same condescending attitude they held some 40 years ago.

But despite the difficulties, the Cohen Commission must at long last uncover the truth. The fact that marked graves have been found to be empty is not something that can simply be shrugged off as "bureaucratic confusion."

The writer is a political scientist.

Too much TV

AL VECCHIONE

"I believe that television is going to be the test of the modern world and that in this new opportunity to see beyond the range of our vision we shall discover either a new and unbearable disturbance of the general peace or a saving radiance in the sky. We shall stand or fall by television, of that I am quite sure."

— E.B. White, 1938

I had that not-so-famous quote framed almost 20 years ago, and it hangs on my office wall to this day. To me, it stands as an eloquent reminder of the awesome power of the medium.

The most recent wrangling has focused on a new program-ratings system and the V-chip technology that will be the tool used to help enforce it. Both are now on the books, one as law and the other in the form of a deal struck between US broadcasters and a group representing parent organizations, doctors and educators.

The questions raised are familiar: Are the new rules needed? Are they fair? Does this constitute censorship? Have First Amendment rights been violated? And what would White have thought about this particular debate if he were still alive?

My guess is that he would have joined the growing chorus of parents, educators, doctors, government leaders and others who argue that television's influence on society has exceeded all reasonable limits; that its influence on our mores may exceed that of our religious institutions.

In the 50 years since it was introduced, it transforms everything it touches — politics, the judicial system and the presidency, to name a few.

Television has fed into the distortion of our values and standards and shaped the minds of two generations of children, with much evidence that the shaping has been largely negative.

Television has become a challenge to our society's mental and physical health. It now swallows up more than one-quarter of the waking day of adults and children

At the very least, it has desensitized children and adults to the true effects of violent behavior. And there is new evidence that heavy viewership can lead to a decline in physical fitness, leading to growing rates of obesity among young and old alike.

Each year, while its influence has increased, our control over television has diminished. We have been mostly unsuccessful, if not helpless, in our efforts to channel television for the greater good, although there have been many who have tried through the years. Those efforts deserve our praise — indeed our gratitude — but the truth is, the impact has been minimal. Trash continues to dominate.

The television industry has defended itself by pleading its rights in a free-market economy, and its free-speech prerogative as guaranteed by the First Amendment. The courts largely have agreed, as does public opinion.

Some steps have been taken with the new ratings system and the V-chip — and they clearly are within the boundaries of First Amendment parameters — to bring some common-sense controls to bear. But there is more to be done. Next, we must develop ways and means — through public persuasion, not further legislation, if possible — to convince the American people to watch less television. Less exposure will translate to less harmful effects and more time spent with families and children, more time for community and public issues and cultural interests.

It was only 25 five years ago that the anti-smoking and environmental campaigns began in earnest. At the time, many of us scoffed at these initiatives. But today our lungs, the air we breathe and the water we drink all have been dramatically improved. If we got those things done, we can — with the same kind of will — cut into our TV viewing habits.

I think E.B. White's reaction would be: Amen.

The writer recently retired after a 43-year career in American television.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTEMPT FOR WOMEN

Sir, — If anything proves Orthodox contempt for women, it is the plan of Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy to relegate them to the back seats of buses.

As a former rabbi in Alabama, I remember with revulsion the racial laws which forced blacks to take the back benches. If the Orthodox were serious about their often-invoked regard for women, they would oblige the men to sit in the back.

PROFESSOR N. PETER LEVINSON
Rabbi Emer. of Hamburg

Jerusalem.

NEW RELIGION?

Sir, — Are we witnessing the birth of a new religion?

Around 2,000 years ago, the disciples of a Galilean rabbi believed that their dead leader was the messiah, and that although he had died, he was still with them every day till the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). Eventually the belief in Jesus as the messiah evolved into a new separate religion.

Matthew's words are now echoed by Rabbi Yehuda Leib Groner, the long-time secretary to the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, when he says "the rebbe is with us now. He is looking at each and every one of us."

Will the Lubavitchers' belief in Schneerson as the messiah also eventually evolve into a new separate religion?

DAVID MANDEL

Savoyon.

SECULAR VIEW

Sir, — A blanket coverage of the Jewish religion as an abomination invites a similar, highly selective condemnation of secular Israeli culture. But it would be difficult to lower oneself to the viciously vituperative level expressed in Israel Shahak's letter of July 14.

This letter is not just a one-off example of a member of the ultra-secular minority venting his spleen. Shahak appears to devote a considerable part of his time to the subject. He has in fact written an entire book, *The Jewish Religion and Jewish History*, in which his hatred of Judaism is clearly apparent.

In case anyone thinks I am religious, I am not. But like the majority of the secular population, whom Israel Shahak falsely claims to represent, I am not averse to acknowledging the good as well as the bad in the Jewish religion.

GORDON SHIFMAN

Kiryat Ono.

KOSHER RECIPES

Sir, — I was distressed to read Daniel Rogov's July 10 column ("Litchis and other summer fruits"), and find three paragraphs about shrimp and pork. Give us a break — please! If we can't induce you to stop giving us non-kosher recipes, at least don't hide them in a column whose title seems perfectly kosher!

FRIEDA E. ROSEMAN

Jerusalem.

ADVICE TO THE KING

Sir, — I am glad King Hussein decided not to visit Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu at this time, even though it was just another blatant attempt at manipulation. He has more important things to do.

Now that he has some spare time on his hands due to his canceled visit, the king might well try and sell the "peace process" to his own kingdom. He could try and convince Abu Marzook, the master terrorist who has found refuge in Jordan, that he might to well to give "peace a chance." After he's finished with him, he might find it worthwhile to visit with those who demonstrated in support of the murder of the seven Israeli schoolgirls and explain to them that their unwavering support of the murderer is not in the spirit of peace. After that, he might do well to enter the refugee camps of Jordan, in which thousands of refugees have been festering since 1948. He could try and explain to them the reasons why they weren't allowed to integrate into Jordanian society. He could explain to them that now that peace is on the horizon, the era of their manipulation is over. He can assure them that Yasser Arafat only has their best interest in mind and not to pay attention to all the rumors of corruption within the PA.

My advice to the king is to sell the almost defunct peace process to his own people first. Then he should come to us.

RA'ANANA.

JUDY LEV

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 19, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that in Zurich Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Lord Melchett opened the Fifth Session of the Jewish Agency Council. They called for two minutes' silence in tribute to the memory of the Jewish victims of the 1936 disturbances in Palestine. While Weizmann advised that the Zionist Executive must enter into immediate negotiation with the

British Government to demand the establishment of a Jewish state, the American non-Zionist group, led by Dr. Felix Warburg, opposed his ideas and were against empowering the Zionist Executive to ascertain and seek improvements in the proposals for Partition.

50 years ago: On August 19, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that Exodus 1947 "illegal" immi-

grants to Palestine held at Port de Bouc aboard the three British "floating cages" held a one-day hunger strike to protest their continued detention.

The British censor controlling ships' deliveries burned all books printed in Yiddish or Hebrew, including some Bibles, since he had no Hebrew or Yiddish-speaking Briton at his disposal to check the books' contents.

Alexander Zvielli

Baby boom town

By ANDREW SELSKY

From a school fronting the village plaza comes the bubbling sound of children's voices. Across the way, some men are drinking beer at the Carretas Bar. Nearby, two women leave church after praying.

Penolite (pronounced peh-nyo-LEE-eh), with its whitewashed houses clinging to a hillside studded with olive groves, seems, on the surface, like many other villages in Spain. But its size is an illusion.

Like a Hollywood set, many of the houses are empty. In the span of a generation, its population has plunged from 1,100 to 320 as residents moved to the cities for jobs, mirroring Spain's transformation in the last half-century from a primarily rural society to an urban one.

Now, Penolite's mayor has come forward with a bold plan to save the village from withering to extinction: Give 200,000-pesetas (NIS 4,200) rewards to couples who have babies, and sell land at cut-rate prices to outsiders.

"It's a question of survival," said Mayor Juan Maria Rodriguez, whose family has lived in Penolite for generations.

Since the offers were made in January, a dozen people have moved into town and six village women have become pregnant. Although most deny that the cash incentive induced them to become pregnant, Rodriguez believes the money is prompting couples who were thinking about having a baby to go ahead and do so. But skeptics say that Rodriguez's strategy, like perhaps Penolite itself, is doomed.

"There are no jobs here," said Petra Guirado, a mother of four grown children,



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as she walked alone on one of Penolite's narrow streets. "My kids would never have left if they could have found good jobs here. What are the newcomers going to do?"

Penolite is dependent on the heavily subsidized olive oil industry for jobs. And the subsidies, provided by the European Union, may soon be cut. Unless you're the only bartender, storekeeper, teacher or doctor in town, there's little employment outside of harvesting olives and pressing them for oil. The work lasts only four months, providing

enough for a family to get by, but little else for the more ambitious.

But Rodriguez's efforts are not only bringing new people into the village, they're bringing fresh ideas.

Antonio Martinez, 35, was unhappy with his job as a window fitter and with living in a crime-ridden neighborhood in the city of Algiers when he heard on TV that Penolite was seeking newcomers. "I got out a map, found where Penolite is, and took a gamble and came here," said Martinez. He brought

his wife, his three children, his father, his sister, her husband and their two kids. While the children attend Penolite's one-room elementary school, the men are trying to make a go of it by growing organic tomatoes and raising chickens and goats for sale.

The regional government is loaning the land in exchange for a share of the earnings. Meanwhile, the newcomers are living in a cramped rented house. If things go well, they'd like to build their own homes and stay.

Local residents have quickly accepted them as their own. "They are hard workers. We need more people like them here," said Juan Maria Bustamante, owner of the Carretas Bar.

As falls and a full moon hangs above a ridge outside town, Bustamante walks outside his bar and stands on the plaza. The clank of goat bells drifts up from a valley below.

Bustamante moved to Penolite seven years ago with his wife, a native of the village, leaving his job as a waiter on the resort island of Ibiza after growing tired of the fast pace and high cost of living. "It's tranquil here," Bustamante said. "In the morning, the song of birds wakes you up. They are our alarm clock. It's beautiful."

But Bustamante worries that Penolite's days are numbered unless the population decline is reversed. Five years ago, the village had three bars and three stores. Now there is only one of each. Residents go to a larger town three miles (five kilometers) away for most goods and services.

"I hope these newcomers stay and that more arrive," Bustamante said. "If they don't, the rest of us may be out of here before long." (AP)

Home Front

It takes a dinosaur

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

He's big. He's purple. And he's headed this way. Anyone with small children will certainly know when he arrives. After all, it's pretty difficult to ignore a dinosaur. And no dinosaur, living or extinct, is more un-ignorable than Barney, the king of the preschool set in the US.

Barney is the star of a top-rated television show and best-selling videos, and the model for one of the most popular stuffed animals. And so it was inevitable. Barney is a successful product, and where there is any successful product in America — hamburgers, pizza, frozen yogurt, doughnuts — you can pretty much guarantee that somewhere there also is a determined Israeli entrepreneur willing to fight to bring the product on home to the Middle East.

But Barney is no Big Mac. It is hard to exaggerate the impact that I immediately foresaw in my life

ing kind of way. The first time I heard it in the US, I felt compelled to do a rewrite: "I hate you, you hate me, we're a dysfunctional family. With a put-down, frown and a kick from me to you, won't you admit you resent me, too?" But that was back in the days before I had a kid of my own.

I must say, as much as I once identified with the Barney-despising crowd, I have a strangely positive feeling about his potential impact on Israeli childhood culture. In the US, Barney's popularity taught parents a lesson: much as grown-ups might like the sophisticated humor of Disney and Sesame Street, their small children are drawn to entertainment that represents a real childhood, a place that is completely safe, warm, simple, innocent and, yes, slow-paced and sticky-sweet. I don't think that this lesson will do a lot of harm around here. The

Much as grown-ups might like the sophisticated humor of Disney and 'Sesame Street,' their small children are drawn to entertainment that represents a real childhood, a place that is completely safe, warm, simple, innocent and, yes, slow-paced and sticky-sweet.

when I learned last week that Barney is making aliya. If the plans go as scheduled (Israeli Barney is to debut in November), Barney marketing fever should hit its pitch just as my child hits prime Barney age.

When I told friends and relatives in the US the news, those who are fellow parents of small children advised me to surrender immediately. Don't even bother trying to resist the influence of this big, purple, puffy, ever-smiling, constantly upbeat creature, they said. He has a magnetic pull to the under-six set that none of us jaded adults can understand. Children are simply entranced by him.

My best friend in New York has a young daughter who currently says only three words: "Mama," "Papa" and "Bom-Bom." "Bom-Bom" is Barney, a creature as repellent to many adults as he is attractive to toddlers. The cultural backlash against him has gotten pretty nasty — for proof, turn to the multiple sites on the Internet advocating some gruesome acts against poor old Barney (for example, 38 Ways to Kill Barney at <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/jerhume/short.html>).

I must admit, for a while I had a certain amount of sympathy for and identification with the reactions of the Barney-baters. Take the saccharine Barney theme song: "I love you, you love me, we're a happy family. With a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me, too?" It's sweet, but in a stomach-turn-

local children's video market has descended recently into choruses of sexy, svelte, bare-midriffed twenty-something stars of the Children's Channel, maniacally swinging their hips while dancing the "Macarena." By contrast, the local Barney production people are purposely not using children from Tel Aviv, preferring to spotlight kids from a more typical town — Ashkelon. And, as in the US, they are making sure to use not only ethnically mixed kids, but also ones that look like actual children — tall, short, chubby, scrawny — decidedly not perfect shiny show-biz veterans. That's a good thing.

And in a hurry-bury Middle East, that thrives on relentless conflict, toughness and cynicism, which our kids are exposed to at younger and younger ages, I think it's actually going to be rather revolutionary to have a dinosaur sing of endless love, tolerance, cooperation and sweetness.

Maybe the ultra-loving, ever-smiling, oh-so-politically-correct dinosaur can do some real good around here. I'm actually looking forward to his arrival.

But that's how I feel right now. You'll have to check back with me in six months when the big purple lug has invaded my house. You may find me on the Internet, hanging out on Dave's Anti-Barney Page — Dedicated to the Destruction of Purple Dinosaurs Everywhere, or commiserating with the members of the Usenet group entitled alt.barney.dinosaurs.die.die.die

HEADS 'N' TAILS



Counting your chickens

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

A teenage boy in our neighborhood keeps pet chickens. They are the small bantam type known here as "baldi" chickens. The small hens, and especially the cocks, are very beautiful, with brightly colored feathers. In addition to having lovely chicken pets, our neighbor has a steady supply of fresh eggs for the family table. That is, if he can find them. Bantams are the world's experts at hiding their nests in the most unlikely places.

Keeping pet chickens is an interesting hobby and not much of a bother at all. They readily learn to come home at feeding time and can be enclosed in a pen. That is, of course, if you live in a place where you can allow them to range free. In my neighborhood no one seems to mind, but some people object to having them come into their gardens.

The second problem is noise.

Cocks crowing at dawn — and, in fact, most of the night — can be a real nuisance. You can, of course, keep only hens, in which case there is no noise at all, but then you will not have the beauty of the cock and you won't have any baby chicks, although the number of eggs laid will be the same.

One needs to be sure to keep the chickens free of parasites. Check them regularly for mites, and be sure they are vaccinated against the multitude of diseases that chickens are vulnerable to. This is especially important in Israel, where we have such a large number of poultry runs. Ask your veterinarian or any professional poultry keeper what needs to be done.

As for feeding, in addition to a good commercial chicken feed, chickens can eat a variety of table scraps and greens from the garden. They especially relish young netles, wild portulaca and the like and, if allowed to range, they will supplement their diet with a variety of foods from beetles to seeds.

If chickens are kept penned up, they need a clean coop because dirty surroundings not only take all the pleasure out of keeping them but also breed diseases. Nesting boxes should be cleaned and left in the sun for a few hours on a regular basis, straw or bedding changed, roosts scraped and cleaned, and floors mucked out. It doesn't take much time, and the reward is a pleasant place to watch one's pets.

In most areas where one might keep chickens, there will also be wild mongooses, and this is a danger, especially to chicks. The adult chickens usually fly up to a high object — even into a tree — at the sight of a mongoose, but the chicks are extremely vulnerable and should be kept penned up until fully fledged. Contrary to popular belief, the mongoose does not break into chicken coops. It simply takes advantage of any place that can serve as an entrance.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

DEAR RUTHIE

Nasty new boss makes life a misery

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I work in an office that is made up mostly of men. Our new boss is a woman, and she's making my life miserable. This is

ironic, because I had been unhappy about not having other females around. I should also be happy — according to many of my colleagues, who have been teasing me — because the first thing she did was to order a renovation of the ladies' room (which was, indeed, in bad shape).

I never got along with the man she replaced. When he announced his

retirement, I couldn't have been happier. But now I miss him terribly. She has become the bane of my existence. She is constantly critical of my work, and silent when I am pleased with it. Because of this, my performance has dropped tremendously, and professionally, I'm in an awful slump.

The work I do reflects on her department. She should want nothing better than for me to succeed. I am afraid to talk to her, because every time I open my mouth in her presence, I put my foot in it.

This problem is affecting every area of my life. I am tense at home with my husband and my kids. You are my last resort before I go into therapy to figure out if I should

quit this job altogether. Frustrated Female Employee Somewhere in Israel Dear Frustrated Employee,

To be sure, finding another place of employment is one option. But doing so would not guarantee you would avoid a similar situation elsewhere. Far better for you in the long run — even if you eventually leave this job — would be to learn how to turn this situation to your advantage.

The fact that you make a point of this boss's sex indicates that you feel gender is at the root of the problem. This may or may not have a basis in reality. Assuming it does, however, you are just as likely to be participating in the dynamic here as your boss. Whatever ambivalent feelings you

have are being projected (albeit unconsciously) in her direction. She may be responding to your vibes just as much as she is giving off some of her own.

And just as you need a period in which to adjust to having a new boss, so does your boss need to adjust. Though her treatment of you may be simply bitchy behavior, there might be another explanation. Perhaps this woman is terrified of failing at her job. Perhaps the only way she can feel secure and "boss-like" is by putting others down. And, if putting others down is on the cards, then being a woman would make you the easiest target in this office.

Analyzing your employer's unkind manner may help you deal

with her better. Rather than donning your armor before approaching her next — which, until now, has led only to your "putting your foot in your mouth" — try viewing her as a sister, with a foot or two of her own at mouth level these days. You could start by complimenting her on having renovated the ladies' room.

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The future is in plastics

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

In the 1967 hit film *The Graduate*, Benjamin, the anti-establishment protagonist, stares disbelievingly when a conservative businessman tells him that the future is in plastics.

While the line was meant to serve as a metaphor for the increasing superficiality and materialism of American society, companies such as Plasson were already beginning to understand the face-value of the prophetic message.

Founded in 1964 to serve as an alternative source of income for Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, Plasson has grown from a small manufacturer of plastic wrappings and buckets to a world leader in specialized injection-molded plastics, supplying pipe fittings, toilet tanks and plastic feeding systems to companies around the world — and making the kibbutz rich to boot. Sales in 1996 totaled \$86 million, one-third of all the revenue generated by Israeli plastics companies, and growth has averaged 10 percent per year for the last several years.

"This is one of the most impressive operations in Israel, both in terms of its size and efficiency," said Keith Phillips, Israel analyst at Societe Generale. "You're looking at a world-class company in its field with especially good marketing channels for an Israeli company."

Once Plasson began to realize plastic's potential, the company began to devise new ways to employ its technology. While steel, aluminum and other metals were commonly used to make products that held, stored or channeled water, Plasson realized that plastic, which does not rust or corrode and is more flexible, could be used as an alternative for a variety of items.

After its early success with wrappings and buckets, the company decided to try to manufacture plastic toilet cisterns. The experiment succeeded, and today Plasson holds about 60% of Israel's toilet-tank market. They also developed and patented the half flush option, which allows households to save up to 15% in water consumption.

Although the cisterns were a hit in Israel — setting the standard in the bathroom fixtures market — Plasson does not sell them abroad. The clumsy shape and fragility of the items means that each tank must be packed individually, making shipping prohibitively expensive. And since most countries have very particular standards, Plasson could not sell its toilet cisterns overseas.

In the 1970s, with the idea to export, Plasson again decided to expand its product line. From the kibbutz's experience, there

was no efficient system for distributing clean water to chickens. Thirsty chickens would flap around the troughs, preventing others from getting their fill. Plasson's automatic drinkers for chickens and turkeys drip water into trays, making water distribution more efficient and sanitary. Today, Plasson has 30% of the US market for poultry drinkers.

While the toilet cisterns and poultry drinkers gave Plasson its foundation, the company's third development propelled the business into the ranks of an international plastics heavyweight. About 20 years ago, Plasson began to manufacture pipe fittings. Today the company's 420 fittings and valves, which comprise 70% of sales, are used in irrigation systems, water and gas distribution and industry.

"In all the areas where we operate, we brought



Plasson's Yuval Kam: "Our philosophy is to always be on the cutting edge." (Inset) Kibbutz members sort plastic fittings. (Debbie Hill)

new developments," said Marketing and Advertising Director Yuval Kam. "Our philosophy was to always be on the cutting edge by thinking about what exists today and how we can use plastic to make better goods."

INSIDE A huge, hot factory, big tubs of imported polyethylene pellets are dropped into sealed vats. There, they are heated to the melting point. The liquid plastic is then funneled through the pipes which channel the goo into moldings located at various stations along an assembly line. Once inside the molds, the plastic cools and the automated machines spit out the pipe fittings, toilet tanks and chicken feeders.

Dressed in the kibbutz's trademark blue workshirts, company workers then x-

ray the goods for faults, before wrapping and packaging them for local distribution and export.

Although the 500-employee enterprise — 70% of whom are members of Ma'agan Michael — is in every way part of the kibbutz, the company's keen business sense has helped propel it onto the world stage. Via wholly owned subsidiaries in Germany, France, Italy, the UK, Australia and Brazil, as well as joint manufacturing ventures in India and Italy, the company has succeeded in becoming an industry name in more than 50 countries, such as Thailand, where the word for pipe fitting is "Plasson."

While the company's sandals-clad executives readily admit that their products will

DESPITE THE company's success, Plasson has not yet been able to sell shares to the public. Twice last year the company attempted an initial public offering on the London Stock Exchange (LSE), a bold move for an Israeli company manufacturing low-tech products. While several technology companies have succeeded in going public on London's Alternative Investment Market, an offering on the LSE would have represented a major coup.

"We thought a company like ours, which has a strong sales history and a well-developed infrastructure, would have a good chance for a successful IPO," Kam said.

Societe Generale, the underwriters for the offering, agreed. While a kibbutz's unique structure needed to be explained to potential investors, the cutting-edge products, dedicated workforce and two-decade-plus track record made Plasson a prime IPO candidate for the LSE, said Societe Generale's Keith Phillips.

"You just get the feeling when you walk in that this is a top company," he said.

In the summer of 1996, however, Plasson's underwriters decided to postpone the offering due to the political uncertainty that followed Benjamin Netanyahu's prime ministerial victory. Then last October, arguably due to the riots following the opening of a second exit for the Western Wall Tunnel, the market failed by a narrow margin to generate the minimal demand needed to meet LSE regulations, when several British, German, French and Italian companies withdrew their backing.

On both occasions the company hoped to raise £20m. by issuing 25% of its shares, thinking that such an issuance would bring the company enough money to expand operations and boost its balance sheet, while allowing the kibbutz to retain managerial control.

Despite the past abortive attempts, Kam says the company is not discouraged. Plasson's management is once again considering a stock issuance, although questions regarding the where and when are still being discussed.

Several months ago, during a visit to Israel, Roger Hornet, executive director of Societe Generale, said that the continuation of the peace process was much more certain, boosting foreign investors' confidence in local companies and increasing Plasson's chances for a successful IPO either locally or abroad.

But, today, following the recent bombings and the stalled peace talks, Plasson's future steps have yet to be determined.



PepsiCo Foods' local district manager Peter Robinson (left) flew into Israel for the launch of Doritos, the flavored corn chips produced under the authority of PepsiCo Foods International by Elite Foods Limited. Robinson and Elite Foods' General Manager Ilan Admon (right) pattered photographers by feeding each other Doritos. Also on hand to sample the new product were National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and his wife Lily, who earlier in the day entertained Michael Strauss, Elite's major shareholder, for lunch at their farm. Strauss said that Lily Sharon's cooking was so good that he could barely move. But he had to find the room to sample at least one corn chip.

Lawyer Hana Matzkevitz has been appointed legal counsel to the Israel Broadcasting Authority, scoring points over a large number of her colleagues who applied for the position when the tender was issued. A graduate of the Hebrew University, Matzkevitz has been practicing law since 1971. For the past two years she has been legal adviser and secretary to Chai Computers and Technology Ltd., and prior to that she spent 13 years as legal adviser to Malina Systems. She replaces Amit Shechter, who resigned after three years in office. Shechter is taking up a teaching position in the communications department of Tel Aviv University. He has also joined the legal firm of Yossi Levy and Partners, where he will specialize in communications law.

Prof. Elhanan Nissim, professor of Engineering at the Haifa Technion, has been named president of the Open University. A former Research Fellow with NASA, Nissim has held various senior positions in Israel and abroad, among them consultant to Israel Aircraft Industries.

Ran Gottfried, managing director of April, the chain of discount stores for perfumes and cosmetics, has announced his company's intention to put in a tender for the Duty Free franchise at Ben-Gurion Airport. The contract of current franchisee James Richardson expires in November 1998, but the Airport Authority has an option to extend it for four years.

Oren Grossman, 28, has moved from the position of sales manager at Eldor Information Systems to that of sales manager of Technion.

Razi Gaoal, general manager of Hertz Israel, has quit in order to become the manager of Reliance.

After five years of selling Israel to

the Canadians, Ruth Ben-Tzur is doing a turnaround and selling Canada to the Israelis. Air Canada has announced the appointment of Ben-Tzur as its first general manager for Israel. Ben-Tzur is returning home following a highly successful term as director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Canada.

Air Canada has experienced spectacular growth on the Israel-Canada route since its debut in June 1995, said Douglas Port, Air Canada senior vice-president for Europe. The company is confident that Ben-Tzur will play a significant role in helping to increase its market presence.

MK Naorin Blumenthal, who heads the Knesset committee on Immigrant Absorption, has promised representatives of caregivers' organizations to impress upon Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai the importance of increasing the minimum rate of pay for people employed as caregivers to the aged. Blumenthal said that it was important to prevent the system of home care from breaking down, both from the perspective of some 4,000 elderly people who are receiving care under the terms of the Home Care Law and 2,500 people — approximately half of them from the former Soviet Union — who work as caregivers.

Yehosh Baran has been appointed head of Pele-Phone's Customer Service Division. Baran, who holds degrees in electrical engineering, engineering science and industrial engineering and management, will be responsible for all of Pele-Phone's 18 branch offices.

Although things could change by next week, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leaves on an official visit to Japan, at this stage neither Dan Freppel, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association, nor Yoram Belikovsky, IMA director-general, will be part of the business and trade delegation accompanying the PM. The reason? The trip was not included in the IMA's budget, and since the IMA is currently engaged in an efficiency and cost-savings campaign, it does not want to take on added expenditure. The trade delegation will be headed by Danny Gitterman, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

Shosh Oren has been appointed as the active chairperson of the Shilov Pension Fund, which was launched by the First International Bank and Menorah Insurance group in April 1996. Oren, 47, who for the past six-and-a-half years served as chairperson of the Secondary Teachers' Association, entered her new post at the beginning of this week.

MOTERING

Improving on old reliable

Toyota is shedding its conservative image with a trendier yet still refined Corolla

By JOEL GORDON

I don't need to be lectured about the qualities of the Toyota Corolla, the largest-selling automobile of all time which was first launched way back in 1966. My 87-year-old mother who lives in Cape Town, South Africa, still drives the same Corolla she bought (second hand) in 1978. She's not a collector of vintage cars — she keeps it because it just goes and goes.

Nevertheless, during a recent visit to Japan, Toyota engineers did lecture me about the newest Corolla which went on sale here last month.

Toyota had invited Israeli motoring journalists to their headquarters to drive the new Corolla and to "get to know the company." The men who built the latest Corolla describe it as "the most European car we have ever made." As I have discussed in past columns, traditional lines dividing Japanese, European and American cars have become blurred, therefore I would simply describe the new Corolla as one of the youngest-looking, most sporty family-class automobiles ever designed by Toyota. The Japanese outfit was obviously reacting to Western criticism that though reliable, Toyotas are conservative at best, and boring at worst.

The new Corolla's trendy appearance is accentuated by the round lines of the front section, which boasts a pair of small, round headlights and a grille riddled with small holes, like a Swiss cheese or honeycomb. The rear lines are straighter, resembling those of the smaller Mercedes models. But despite the fact that the designers have done a splendid job in their bid to make a more exciting exterior, the interior remains cold and unfriendly. The parts are made of the highest quality materials and are ergonomically placed to a fault, but the design simply does not shout "buy me."

The new design gives the optical illusion that the new Corolla is smaller than the model it is replacing, yet it is slightly longer, wider and higher than the older model. The seating space offers adequate head and shoulder space, and it's easy to get in and out of the car. The trunk can be enlarged by folding the rear seat forward. There are useful storage pockets and boxes in the inside of the doors and between the seats. The radio is placed in the center above the climate-controller

which means you do not have to bend slightly and take your eyes off the road to change radio stations or adjust the volume. This feature reflects the Toyota engineers' pledge to put "the greatest emphasis on both active and passive safety."

Consider the following passive-safety (protection for the driver and passengers after the crash) features: Although the new European Union regulations require cars to withstand frontal impacts at 56 km/h, the Corolla has been designed to withstand impacts at 60 km/h. Driver-side and passenger-side airbags are standard equipment on all models. There are three-point seat belts for all three rear passengers and the front seat-belt system has electric pre-tensioning and force-limiting functions.

The model that I tested was the top-of-the-line sedan version with automatic shift, which includes central door locking, power windows and a rev. counter. The manual-shift version costs NIS 85,900. A version without some of the above electric toys starts at NIS 81,900 (manual shift) or NIS 85,900 (automatic). Station-wagon and "liftback" versions are also available in different levels of trim and with either manual or automatic shift.

The seats initially have a hard feel, but once you get used to them, they are extremely comfy. Even after longish trips, I climbed out of the Corolla feeling as if I'd just started my journey.

The new Corolla is not merely a face-lifted version of the old Corolla — there have been substantial improvements made to its insides. The most noticeable is the silent ride of the engine. Panels and flooring have been utilized to absorb vibrations and noise, and the cabin picks up a minimum of vibration through its light, stiff body. Not even the most critical driving enthusiast could fault the soft suspension and stable road holding



which are among the finest I have encountered in a car of this size. The model has also been equipped with a sensitive steering system which does wonders for what is known as "driving feel."

The 4A-FE engine of the old Corolla has been refined so that it now generates 111 horsepower at 5,600 r.p.m. (compared to 106 at 6,000 r.p.m. in the old Corolla). The torque has also been slightly improved (from 14 to 15.1),

allowing to driver greater power on tap while driving at lower speeds. The thrifty fuel consumption is a welcome bonus during a two-day test drive in Israel. I calculated it to be an average of around 13 km/l. — excellent figures for an automobile with automatic shift.

Local Toyota dealers, Union Motors, have kept the new Corolla's price competitive with its main rival, the Mitsubishi Carisma. There are a number of other Japanese 1,600cc

automobiles available at lower prices, notably the Mazda Lantis and the Nissan Almera — but they fail to offer the quiet, comfortable, refined ride and advanced safety features of the new Corolla. And nobody beats Toyota for reliability. If you don't believe me, ask my mother.

TOYOTA COROLLA
four-seater automobile
ENGINE: 1,587cc
HORSEPOWER: 111 at 5,600 r.p.m.
TORQUE: 15.1 at 4,200 r.p.m.
GEARS: automatic
ACCELERATION: From 0-100 km/h in 12.5 sec.
MAXIMUM SPEED: 175 km/h
GASOLINE CONSUMPTION: 8.3 km/l. in town; 15.3 km/l. at 90 km/h.
PRICE: NIS 89,900

Market strategy — Japanese style

A major Japanese business strategy will be to "take the market by storm" in the next few years. The Japanese plan every move down to the smallest detail, usually years in advance. For example, the country's biggest car manufacturer, Toyota, only started opening here in 1991, but the company researched the market a decade prior to its arrival.

When Israeli automobile

each year after sales increased dramatically but steadily — by between 300 and 400 units a year. Last year the figure reached 8,500 and this year — with the help of the new Corolla and other models — it should reach 10,000. If the sales graph continues to rise at this rate, market domination by the year 2002 will be a clutch.

Among the company's initiatives, it has set up in European and Middle Eastern countries such as the UK and Turkey. Already by the end of the this year the new Corolla will be imported from the UK. Other plans for Israel include:

- to push sales of the trendy-looking new Corolla (see adjoining story);
- to consolidate the Hifume's position as the country's No. 1

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

19.8 Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Israel is hosting an Environment Management Systems seminar at the Dan Hotel, Eilat, featuring guest speaker Dr. Anne Marie Warris, managing director of LRQA. One of the world's foremost experts in her field, Warris specializes in resort areas and will speak about building an environmental management system in the Eilat area. Other participants include Mel Pearson, regional group manager of Lloyd's Register; Alan Whitehead, managing director of LRQA; Isaac Schwartz, Lloyd's Register country manager for Israel and Menachem Lerner, LRQA Business Manager.

2.9 A General Meeting of Shareholders in Osem Investments will be held at the company's registered offices, 61 Jabotinsky Street, Petah Tikva. The agenda includes a discussion of the financial reports and balance sheet; the declaration of the 1996 dividend; the election of a board of directors; the approval of acting directors; the appointment of an auditor and the determination of his salary; the approval of a grant for the managing director for 1996 and the approval of salary increases and bonus for various employees.

8.9 How to Do Business and Stay Healthy is the provocative title of a dinner-time symposium to be held at Gan Oranim in Tel Aviv under the joint auspices of Shahal, Focus Ha'aretz and Bank Discount. While business executives dine on a gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Ran Shmueli, they will hear a series of medical experts discuss the health risks involved in being a high-pressure business person living a tension-filled existence, and how some of these risks can be avoided.

8.9 A General Meeting of Stockholders in the Trust Company of the Israel Maritime Bank will be held at the bank's headquarters, 35 Ahad Ha'am Street, Tel Aviv. Shareholders attending will be updated on the company's standing and will be asked to make special decisions with regard to the company's future.

9.9 Technopolis '97, a four-day international conference on metropolitan concentrations of knowledge-based industries, will be held in Ottawa, Canada. The event will include a trade fair with over 40 plenary and workshop sessions. Participants will come from over 20 countries.

Major League Statistics (Through Friday's games)

O's down Angels in 10th

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	TEAM PITCHING					
	ERA	H	ER	BB	SO	SV
Baltimore	3.53	979	415	402	837	10
New York	3.70	1070	447	382	865	8
Toronto	3.79	1054	448	350	835	12
Milwaukee	4.34	1046	504	419	721	7
Anaheim	4.46	1123	535	461	771	5
Chicago	4.49	1085	525	428	706	6
Texas	4.60	1195	545	392	682	6
Detroit	4.73	1127	563	432	697	6
Kansas City	4.73	1110	552	385	685	4
Cleveland	4.79	1138	558	418	760	2
Boston	4.85	1199	597	466	753	4
Seattle	4.91	1106	584	454	691	5
Minnesota	5.04	1199	603	397	670	3
Oakland	5.41	1284	655	487	693	1

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Based on 12 decisions						
	IP	R	BB	SO	W	L ERA
Clemens Tor	195	143	50	215	18	4 1.66
Johnson Sea	184	124	71	256	16	4 2.40
Cone NYT	184	149	79	214	12	6 2.84
Key Bal	165	159	62	107	13	7 2.89
Johnson Det	139	152	112	112	9	2 2.96
Alvarez Chi	145	126	55	110	9	8 3.03
Pettitte NY	185	189	47	123	14	7 3.11
Appling KC	178	151	59	145	6	10 3.19
Musina Bal	173	146	42	161	13	5 3.28
Ericksen Bal	165	159	44	149	14	5 3.33
Houtz Tor	203	197	53	122	13	7 3.36
Radtke Tor	187	185	39	133	16	7 3.46
Gordon Bos	165	144	66	134	6	9 3.59
DWells NY	1165	165	33	115	14	5 3.60
Patterson Tex	55	50	19	53	7	5 3.60
Kamienicki Bal	132	126	51	84	8	5 3.80
Verity Tor	113	135	24	61	4	8 3.90
Fassero Sea	174	176	67	145	11	7 3.93
DWells NY	150	158	57	83	9	10 3.94
Witte Tor	165	183	54	97	11	8 3.98
Dickson NY	157	183	40	91	11	5 4.00
Johnson Sea	153	126	36	110	8	7 4.06
Crisley Ana	161	149	42	152	13	6 4.07
Resasco KC	146	155	55	108	8	4 4.11
Moore Sea	133	131	31	75	12	4 4.12
Blair Det	118	130	34	54	12	5 4.12
DWells NY	130	130	31	62	4	4 4.13
Nagy Chi	173	190	59	116	12	8 4.20
Williams Tor	144	145	88	7	10	4 4.23
Alfonso NY	103	137	70	8	4	4 4.34
Wallerfield Bos	142	135	59	112	6	14 4.43
Karl Mil	139	150	54	83	7	10 4.45
Alfonso NY	124	84	35	39	7	5 4.46
Oliveras Sea	138	140	68	84	6	7 4.54
Watson Ana	149	153	61	102	10	7 4.59
Burke Tor	149	206	23	104	7	10 4.81
Hershiser Chi	147	155	49	78	10	5 4.83
Becker KC	169	198	50	96	11	14 4.88
Mochler Det	138	148	49	77	7	9 4.93
Pinto Ana	114	142	65	85	6	6 4.97
Person Tor	98	98	42	87	5	8 4.97
Eldred Mil	147	149	68	89	11	12 5.08
Kuhl Mil	127	148	69	75	4	9 5.09
Baldrick Chi	1156	152	67	110	8	13 5.11
DWells NY	154	159	53	58	8	5 5.28
Navarro Chi	146	202	57	112	9	10 5.42
Drabek Chi	125	127	49	65	9	7 5.44
Ogas Chi	99	109	38	65	9	5 5.49
Wengert KC	111	139	33	59	5	9 5.50
Rusch KC	128	159	39	89	5	5 5.52
Karoly KC	132	166	47	92	3	12 5.75
Johnson Sea	124	148	62	53	3	11 5.85
Lira Sea	99	112	48	66	5	7 5.91
Sale Bos	134	157	59	94	11	9 5.98
Standers Det	96	109	50	82	4	10 6.28
Aldred Mil	77	102	28	33	2	10 6.28

TEAM BATTING

AB	R	H	HR	RB	Avg
Boston	4420	680	1317	148	287
New York	4213	645	1210	120	287
Cleveland	4052	634	1158	163	285
Seattle	4169	648	1180	163	285
Anaheim	4205	638	1165	114	284
Minnesota	4216	575	1147	97	271
Texas	4199	590	1142	156	271
Chicago	4052	568	1095	121	263
Baltimore	4043	601	1087	140	276
Kansas City	4080	539	1080	110	264
Milwaukee	4024	515	1056	107	262
Detroit	4048	602	1053	144	260
Oakland	4188	570	1051	151	255
Toronto	4017	472	974	115	242

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

Based on 280 plate appearances					
	AB	R	H	HR	Avg.
Jefferson Bos	346	60	124	12	55
Pharmax Chi	302	80	132	28	77
Ramirez KC	407	68	136	19	60
Salmoner Chi	343	47	114	16	56
O'Neill NY	422	75	140	17	93
WClark Tor	379	56	128	12	51
MWang Tor	387	69	125	26	72
Justice Chi	342	56	112	23	71
Johnson NY	349	74	113	15	66
Barone Sea	421	84	135	19	82
Cole Sea	442	82	142	9	46
Greer Tor	450	81	144	18	59
O'Leary Bos	461	48	115	11	58
Triguera Tor	411	71	143	12	49
Roberts KC	311	37	97	13	33
Johnson Sea	453	79	141	14	65
Anderson Ana	461	61	142	6	70
Guerrero Bos	518	92	159	21	72
Alfonso NY	446	81	137	17	64
Offenberg KC	350	52	107	2	32
Frye Bos	262	40	80	2	35
Pharmax NY	460	80	140	39	114
Erstad Ana	436	79	132	11	56
Molitor Min	403	43	122	7	69
McDonald Min	461	93	139	9	53
Anderson Bal	444	75	134	13	59
Cooper Min	369	41	111	8	52
Griffey Jr Sea	452	88	136	38	110
Salmoner Ana	423	67	127	21	95
Stanley Bos	260	45	78	13	53
Clavus KC	357	53	107	21	67
Nelson Bal	339	52	101	10	43
Jeter NY	491	87	146	5	47
Leyritz Tor	320	54	95	11	59
Baines Bal	357	45	106	13	56
Edmonds Ana	368	66	109	18	60
Vizquel Chi	419	67	123	2	35
Loretta Min	315	42	92	4	33
Thorne Chi	378	78	108	32	84
Hollins Ana	420	68	123	12	67
Berroz Bal	415	65	118	21	67
Shorrock Bal	378	59	109	14	66
Liorens Tor	275	38	79	12	47
Jefferson Bos	293	46	94	3	27
Hutchins Bos	259	38	74	4	28
Damon KC	337	46	96	5	37
Clayton Bal	459	61	131	14	49
Cordero Bos	423	66	120	15	56
Johnson Tor	384	58	109	28	74
Belk KC	436	67	128	12	29

McGriff Oak	366	48	104	34	81	284
ToClark Det	431	83	122	27	89	283
Nielsen Mil	435	58	123	20	72	282
Higginson Det	386	68	109	23	73	282
Cirillo Mil	436	56	123	7	64	282
SeGreen Tor	277	38	78	15	39	282
DaWit Sea	388	53	109	17	58	281
Phillips Ana	420	77	117	7	47	279
Giles Chi	259	49	72	16	44	278
Giambi Oak	374	47	104	14	56	278
Theriot Sea	314	41	87	7	35	277
Boggs NY	285	38	79	3	19	277
Hawens Bal	315	54	87	17	44	276
Meares Min	357	55	98	8	46	275
Hayes NY	264	34	72	11	44	273
Valencia Mil	346	42	94	11	43	272

Don't let No. 2 become No. 1

Former Dodgers' manager Tommy Lasorda was great on the field, but keep him out of the front office

LOS ANGELES — Now that the Los Angeles Dodgers have retired No. 2, it is time to retire something else.

The idea that No. 2 should be No. 1.

Tom Lasorda would make a wonderful general manager, but not here, not now, no matter what those thousands of fans have been saying recently.

On Friday night, they gave Lasorda a standing ovation that lasted more than a minute.

They booed General Manager Fred Claire.

That sort of reception, warranted once, is now as stale as whatever it is Claire puts in his hair.

Sure, it's been 11 years, and the Dodgers' general manager still does not look or talk like a baseball guy. His short speech during uniform-retirement ceremonies was the emotional equivalent of an elevator conversation.

Certainly, Claire has made horrible trades, ignored team chemistry, walked around with a tightly buttoned shirt and lips, represented everything that Lasorda is not.

But for the fourth consecutive year, he has put a division-contending team on the field.

That is his job, his only job, and with the acquisition of Orlin Nixon, he has finished it.

The Dodgers are not great, but their roster is better than the one in San Francisco, good enough to make the playoffs, deep enough in pitching to scare those folks in Atlanta.

If none of that happens, the blame should be spread around the field, into the dugout, away from a man whose team could learn from his nerve.

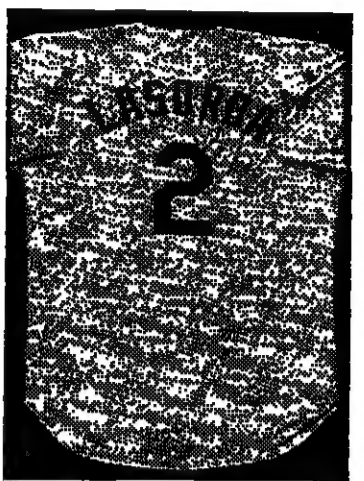
Look no further than last week, when Claire became the first person in the history of the organization to tell Lasorda to button it.

He was probably overreacting a tad. Tommy is just a guy trying to figure out his life like anybody

else forced into retirement — but Claire sensed a distraction and moved to end it.

By the time they met on the field Friday, there was a chill in the summer air, but the sideshow was over.

Lasorda said he loved Manager



Bill Russell "like my own son." He thanked Claire "from the bottom of my heart." And not once did he mention Bobby Valentine.

It was justifiably Lasorda's night. Enveloped in such cheers, he said he will hear them forever.

But this morning belongs to Claire. And as long as Peter O'Malley has any control around here, the top baseball job always will belong to Claire.

This is not a bad thing. Lasorda is a wonderful evaluator of talent, with much to offer. Those who want him to end his days as a punch-drunk casino greeter insult productive senior citizens everywhere.

But it is fair to give Lasorda his dream job at the expense of a man who refused to give away bullpen-exiled pitcher Tom Candiotti at the start of spring training despite pressure from the media and fans.

You can never have enough pitching," Claire said repeatedly. It

took a couple of months, but Ramon Martinez's shoulder eventually proved Claire correct. Without Candiotti, there is no division race.

He also had the nerve to demote young stars Todd Hollandsworth and Antonio Osuna to Triple-A Albuquerque.

Sure, Hollandsworth stunk, but let's see you publicly diss the reigning National League Rookie of the Year like that. And then upset every Latin American scout in your system by making one of their best discoveries disappear.

You know what happened next. Both were humbled, both learned.

Osuna has returned to become the Dodgers' hottest reliever, and Hollandsworth, before he was injured, had regained his focus and could be playing every day again in September.

Claire has stood firm in support of his new manager when faced with complaints by some of his veteran players.

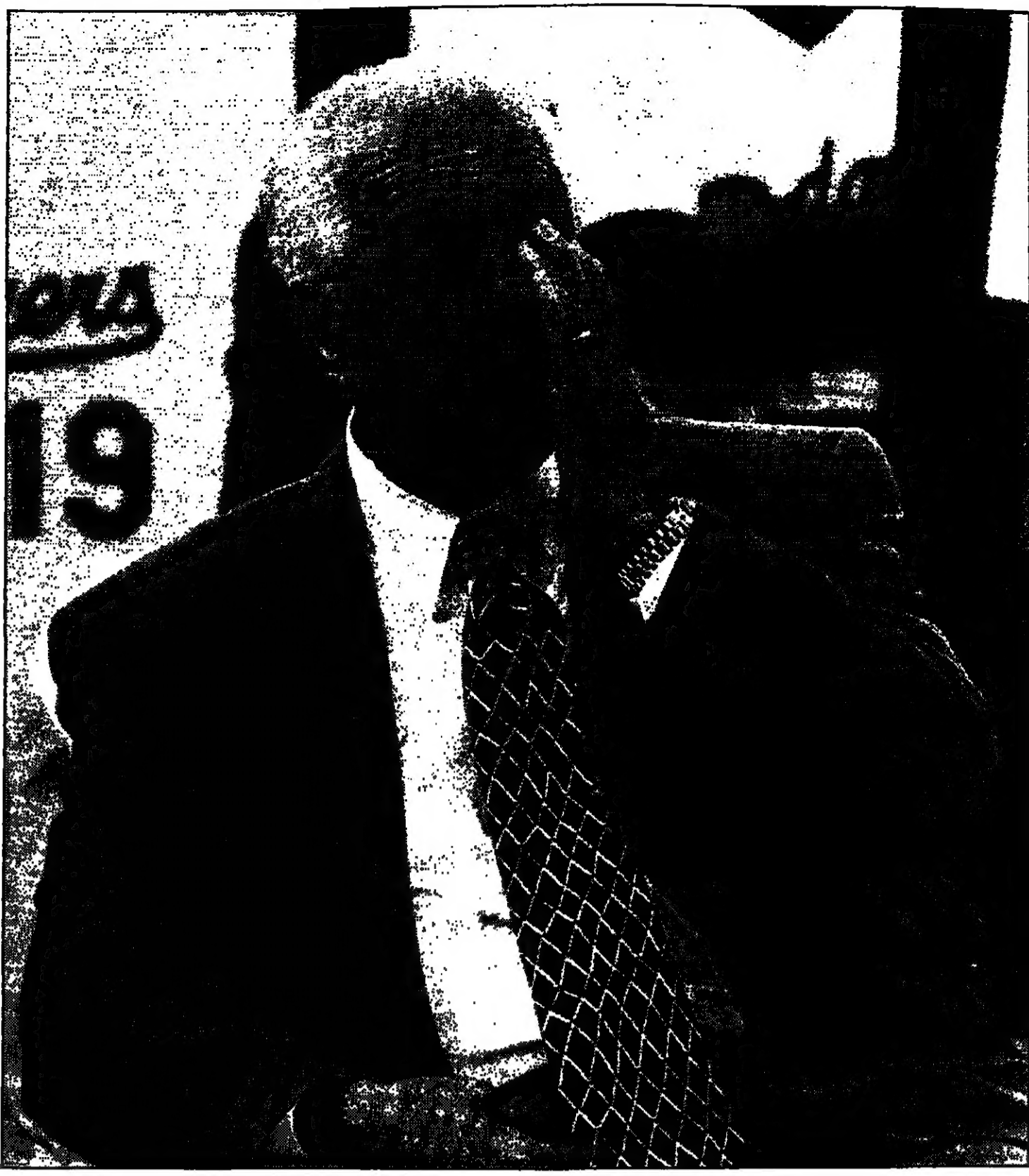
What, you don't think guys go into Claire's office complaining about their boss? It happens everywhere. It happened here, particularly this year after Russell enforced some rules that had long been ignored.

The only difference is, here, the general manager doesn't listen.

It is still uncertain whether Russell and this team will be a good fit. But it will not be because he has been back-stabbed by his superiors.

One of his biggest moves was a non-move. He restrained himself from trading Eric Karros when the first baseman was struggling.

As usual, Claire decided to sleep on it a couple of weeks, wait until Karros got hot, which he did, just as he promised, and won't the Dodgers be lucky to have his 30 home runs and 100 RBI at season's end? And something he did too. He didn't blink at spending \$650,000 of O'Malley's closely



NEXT CHAPTER — Tommy Lasorda sheds a tear at his recent farewell party. (Reuters)

watched money to grab Nixon. Besides the bucks, it only cost Claire an average catching prospect, Bobby Cripps, who was valuable to the Toronto Blue Jays

because he is from British Columbia.

Nixon was with the Dodgers all of two days before he won a game. He will do this again.

It has not been all good. Claire fell too deeply in love with Wilton Guerrero, blew out too much of his valuable bench last winter, again forgot that baseball club-

houses need as many Mickey

Hatchers as Mike Piazas. But he deserves to return. With the help of special assistant Tom Lasorda. (Los Angeles Times)

Suspended players must be paid

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball players must be paid when they are suspended for on-field misconduct, an arbitrator ruled in another decision eroding baseball's disciplinary power.

In a case involving Ron Gant, Terry Pendleton and Xavier Hernandez, arbitrator Nicholas Zumas decided withholding the pay of suspended players amounted to "an improper fine" even if their contracts contained clauses specifically giving teams the right not to pay them during bans.

"A special covenant that does not provide an actual or potential additional benefit is not binding and is not enforceable," Zumas wrote in a 35-page decision.

Zumas, fired as the sport's independent arbitrator by owners and players on July 30, also ordered teams to give the three players interest in addition to their back pay. Under a decision made during the collusion cases in the 1980s, a fired arbitrator is allowed to rule on cases that already have been argued before him.

Baseball's disciplinary process has been criticized by umpires, and umpires union head Richie Phillips called the decision "troubling." "He called on owners to attempt to find a way around it in cases in which players act egregiously."

"It's really putting him on vacation," Phillips said of suspended players. "No longer is a suspension any form of deterrence. There has to be some discipline in the game. There have to be some deterrents that would cause a player to hesitate before engaging in aberrant behavior."

After Roberto Alomar spit at umpire John Hirschbeck on the final weekend of last season, umpires became enraged when the Baltimore second baseman was suspended for just five games. Their anger increased when, following precedent, the start of the penalty was pushed back to the opening of the 1997 season rather than taking effect in the playoffs, and he was paid during the ban.

Gene Orza, the No. 2 official of the players association, argued that missed games are as significant, and in some cases more significant, than the money involved. "It is a penalty to take a player off the field, even if he does get paid," Orza said. "It's definitely a penalty, not a paid vacation."

In contrast to the NFL, NBA and NHL, baseball teams generally have paid players during suspensions for misconduct on the field. Chicago Bulls forward Dennis Rodman, for example, lost approximately \$1.1 million in pay when NBA commissioner David Stern suspended him for 11 games last January.

When Larry Walker was suspended for four games by NL president Len Coleman in 1994, Montreal withheld his pay, and the players association filed a grievance. In deciding that case, Zumas ruled last June that players with standard non-guaranteed contracts must be paid during suspensions.

Hernandez was ejected for eight games by NL president Len Coleman for intentionally throwing at Gant in September 1995, and Gant was suspended for four games for instigating a bench-clearing brawl. Pendleton was suspended for four games for bumping an umpire on May 16, 1995.

After the Walker decision, the players association filed an additional grievance on behalf of Hernandez, Gant and Pendleton, arguing the collective bargaining agreement only allows additional contract clauses "which actually or potentially provide additional benefits to the player."

Gant and Hernandez had contract clauses stating "the club shall be relieved of its guarantee to pay (a) player's salary during any limited period that the player does not render his service under the contract due to ... suspension by the club or by action of the league president or the commissioner of baseball."

"There can be no question that the special covenant entered into by Gant, Hernandez and Pendleton, giving the Reds and the Marlins the right to dock their pay during the term of league suspensions, is not a benefit but an obvious detriment. (Arbitrators) have been consistent in invalidating special covenants that do not provide any 'additional benefit.'"

Because of the decision, Cincinnati must pay Gant about \$77,000 and Hernandez about \$26,000, plus interest. Florida must pay Pendleton approximately \$33,000, plus interest.

Zumas became baseball's arbitrator in September 1995, a month after owners fired George Nicolau, who had held the post since 1987. Players and owners have not yet agreed on Zumas' replacement.

McGwire adds explosive touch to Cards

ST. LOUIS

(AP) — Now that the St. Louis Cardinals have had a taste of Mark McGwire,

they're hoping he's not just a rent-a-player. General manager

Walt Jocketty, who engineered the July 31 trade with Oakland

that brought McGwire to St. Louis, has talked to ownership about possible ways of signing him to a long-term deal and fitting the slugger into the budget.

"We're going to try," Jocketty said.

Why not? Despite being with the team only a short time, McGwire already is the most popular Cardinals player by far.

The team opens the gates a half-hour early so thousands of adoring fans can watch him hit tape-measure shots in batting practice.

McGwire was assigned a security guard for Sunday's photo day, lest any overzealous types try and get too close to him.

When the Cardinals acquired him, ticket sales immediately spiraled. They drew 132,060 for the recently completed three-game series with the Atlanta Braves.

Reliever Dennis Eckersley, a longtime teammate of McGwire's with the Athletics, said the first baseman had to be impressed.

"It was like that in Oakland when we were playing good a long, long time ago, but he hasn't seen this type of atmosphere in a while," Eckersley said. "You'd think we were 10 games up."

Instead, they're 9½ games behind Houston in the NL Central. But the fawning can't hurt come contract time.

Last Wednesday, McGwire homered twice and had three RBIs in a 5-4, 10-inning loss to New York. When he struck out in the 10th, he got a standing ovation.

"I wish every ballplayer could feel like that," McGwire said. "It's fabulous ... overwhelming." Now the question is, can the Cardinals afford him? St. Louis has a \$44 million payroll this year and McGwire will command at least \$10 million a season.

The Cardinals could create some room by letting go of either Todd Stottlemyre or Andy Benes. Stottlemyre has a \$4.7 million club option for next season, Benes



Mark McGwire

McGwire.

"But I know without him coming over for these two months we had no chance, or virtually no chance," La Russa said.

"He gets to see what we've got here, the type of fans we have, the National League style of play, and all of that is going to help us. What it comes out to mean, I don't know."

Even if the Cardinals come up with the money, McGwire might opt to play on the West Coast, where his 12-year-old son lives. But at least he seems to have an open mind about the Midwest.

"The way the fans are, I can visualize it," he said. "This is unbelievable."

Curiously, picking up the player who's second only to Babe Ruth in career home run frequency hasn't done anything for the Cardinals' postseason prospects. They're 5-11 with him in the lineup. They averaged 4.2 runs before he arrived, and 2.6 since.

Changing leagues for the first time wasn't easy for McGwire, who started 3-for-34 with one home run and one RBI. Only in the past week has he begun hitting.

A 441-foot shot off the foul pole in his Busch Stadium debut August 8. One home run last Tuesday, two more last Wednesday, a game-tying two-run shot in the ninth inning off Tom Glavine on Friday night.

McGwire walked four times Friday before the homer. La Russa solved that problem by batting him third ahead of Ray Lankford, instead of fourth ahead of Gant.

"It makes sense," La Russa said. "I think with Ray behind him, there's an awful lot of motivation on the other side not to pitch around him. If they do, Ray will make them pay." Soon, comes the larger problem.

"Selfishly, I'd love to see him back," Eckersley said. "He would make this club so much better. I hope they can work it out."

a \$3.3 million player option. They also could trade disappointing outfielder Ron Gant, who has three years left on a five-year, \$25 million contract. Manager Tony La Russa said he has no idea what will happen with

Eddie Robinson's farewell

Grambling grid coach to call it quits after 57 years at the helm

GRAMBLING, La. (AP) — Shunning the shade, Eddie Robinson stands impervious to the sun and the passage of time through two-a-day practices in the steamy Louisiana summer.

No shorts for him on the field or at home in his trophy-filled, ranch-style brick house, where he studies tapes through the night while his young assistants sleep.

In his 57th and final year coaching at Grambling State University, the 78-year-old Robinson works harder and longer than anyone. Always has. And especially now as he grinds through the end of a year's misery.

The winningest football coach, college or pro, with 405 victories, Robinson is coming off his worst record, 3-8. His first consecutive losing seasons.

The arrest of four players on rape charges. An NCAA probe of recruiting violations. The threat of losing his job.

He practically built Grambling, made the tiny, historically black school as identifiable with college football as Knute Rockne did at Notre Dame, and he's reluctantly stepping aside at the end of the season.

"I'd like to coach to about 100, if I could live that long," Robinson says. "This is the only thing I've ever done. I've got the same wife and the same job. Frankly, it doesn't sound right, but I've never really wanted to do anything else." He doesn't golf or fish. Doesn't care to travel on vacations.

His life is Grambling football, and those close to him worry about how he'll survive away from the game.

"It's going to leave a hole, like a death in the family," says his son, quarterbacks coach Eddie Robinson Jr.

"Sometimes folks live a certain way so long, it's hard to adjust to anything else." For one last season, Robinson can weave the poetry that his wife gives him into locker room oratory to make his players laugh and weep and run out to the field roaring like tigers. His speeches are closer to sermons, full of wisdom and passion.

"He can cry like a preacher, he whines like a preacher, and he

can get that voice up real high like a preacher," says Glen Hall, a former player and now defensive backs coach. "And when he sings the school song, he sings like a preacher."

Robinson will talk to the players about what the game means to him, to them, remind them of everything they've gone through, and what winning would mean to generations of future tigers.

In a career that's spanned 11 presidents, several wars, and the civil rights movement, Robinson has sent more players to the pros — over 200 — than anyone else. He's won every award a coach can win, been inducted into every hall of fame for which he's eligible, and received honorary degrees from such prestigious universities as Yale.

A man's most important qualities, Robinson says, are integrity, respect and honesty. He's taught that to his players for six decades, and he's urged them to live life to the fullest, to "leave some kind of mark among the people so they know you and what you stood for."

His home and office sit where a peach orchard stood when the school was called the Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute back in 1941. Robinson arrived that year after working in a feed mill and driving an ice wagon in Baton Rouge following his graduation from Leland College.

That was also the year Joe DiMaggio hit in 56 straight games. Ted Williams batted .406 and Joe Louis flattened everyone in the bum-of-the-month club.

"I guess Joe Louis had a greater impact on me than any other sports figure or anybody else other than my father," Robinson says. "He never bragged, he never made a lot of promises and things like that, and I could relate to somebody like that. I wanted to be a boxer once because of him."

Robinson, a quarterback, fullback, tailback and baseball pitcher at Leland before the school was absorbed into Southern University, had earlier considered a couple of other careers.

"The preacher and the doctor,

that's what we had as black youngsters coming along," he recalls.

He went on his first recruiting trip as a Leland student with his coach — "The NCAA would kill you for that today," he says with a wink — and refined the art of finding talent throughout the South in his first years at

Assisted only by a moonlighting night watchman when he first arrived at the threadbare campus, 65 miles from Shreveport, Robinson did everything to build the athletic department virtually from scratch. He lined the field, taped the players, led the drill squad at halftime. He wrote the stories for local newspapers, waxing poetic at times with something like, "Outlined against a blue-gray October sky," just as Grantland Rice did.

Robinson coached basketball and baseball and did everything but cook for the students.

In time, Robinson built the Grambling football team into a nationally respected power, playing in Yankee Stadium, the Rose Bowl, the Sugar Bowl, the Orange Bowl and the Superdome.

He took the Tigers on barnstorming trips around the country in the '60s — a gypsy team with a floating schedule — and over to Tokyo to play Morgan State in 1976 in the first overseas game between US colleges.

Early on, Robinson started a tradition of waking players by going around to their rooms with a loud bell. He'd collect their meal cards and give them back if they reported to breakfast at 7 a.m. They didn't have to eat, but if they didn't show up they'd have to buy their own food the rest of the day. The idea was to make sure they were up in time for breakfast so there would be no excuses for not getting to class by 8 a.m.

Going to class, studying and graduating were the first orders of business for Grambling players, and nearly 80 percent of them earned degrees.

Robinson also teaches eating etiquette, civil language and manners.

"But we've still got people who don't know how to eat and are afraid to eat in public," he says.

REVIEWS

in brief

Concert



Ahinoam Nini

Ahinoam Nini deserved a better audience than the apathetic one she played to last Friday night at Beit Shmuel in Jerusalem. Alternating between her equally famous Hebrew and English songs, including "Bo'i Kala" and "I Don't Know," Nini's abundance of energy never let up. She has a dynamic presence on the stage, both when she's dancing and singing. You could see that Nini was enjoying herself by her ever-present smile and the excitement in her eyes. Although her many attempts at clapping her hands to entice the audience to join in proved futile, her passionate bongo set filled the crowd with awe, even garnering her some whistles. Nini's sexy voice and masterful instrumentation entranced all in attendance. Giggling during her original operatic finale, which included thanks to her band and technicians, complemented her humorous lyrics. Overall, Nini's concert was intense and highly entertaining. *Viva Press*

Dance

The dance troupe Hora came to town – to the Jerusalem Sherover Theater, that is – in a grandiose, ambitious way, with orchestra on stage, singers providing interludes, and all the trappings that make for a truly spirited people's festival.

One expects and indeed looks forward to such Israeli folk occasions in the capital – vigor and vitality in the men, charm and agility in the women. Yet there were elements in the long program that left something to be desired.

Where the dances kept to the traditional well-trodden and delightful folk idiom, they offered admirable routine which inspired choreographers have made familiar. Where the troupe ventured into modern dance forms, it left doubts...

Is Israeli folk dance seeking to enter the modern fields, vying with modern dance – stage dance? Or will it continue to strengthen our folk paths? In several duos with dramatic content, the dancers begged comparison with modern art dance. Directors and choreographers should think twice about this.

There is enough variety and verve in the best of Israeli home-grown dance to make such ventures unnecessary. There are enough young people and ethnic strands to keep Israel folk dance rich and rare – as demonstrated in segments like the Yemenite, Hassidic and other such groups. What need, then, for Brahms Hungarian dances or rolling on the floor? Where were our Russians?

Be that as it may, there was an audience that filled the hall and enthusiastic applause – and a feeling that a good time was had by all. *Dora Sowden*

Theater



The Broadway Musical Project 1997: In its second phase

With the ever-growing popularity of musicals (or music-drenched dramas) on our stages, it is no wonder that many of our gifted young actors have joined the second phase of The Broadway Musical Project 1997, now under way at Tel Aviv University Theater Arts Department (Israel Project director, Dr. David Zinder; producer, Efrat Kahanov).

With instructors of the calibre of Wally Harper, Jack Lee, and Jane Summerhays, all renowned for their involvement in Broadway shows such as *A Chorus Line*, *Me and My Girl*, *Grand Hotel*, *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story*, they stand an even chance of having their show-biz talents properly honed if not sensationally "discovered." Among those taking advantage of what is the second phase of this musical theater workshop are Alon Ophir, Natan Dattner, Sarit Winograd, Yuval Zamir, and Natti Ravitz, to name but a few of the artists taking part.

In addition to individual coaching, this second phase offers master classes, weekly symposiums, and critical sessions held before an invited audience. To sit in on any of these is not only a privilege but pure pleasure. To witness the spontaneity, freshness, and enthusiasm that these seasoned music-and-movement experts elicit from young candidates is an exhilarating experience in itself. It can be shared by all interested in the technical side of the theatrical process.

The public is invited to attend the event, which will close this phase of the workshop on August 24, when a staged performance of selections from the repertoire will be held at the Schottlander Hall (Room 1-40), Gillman Building, Tel Aviv University.

In October of this year, the third phase of the project will take place in New York City. Participants selected from the above performances will be accorded exposure to the Broadway community through concentrated work with professional performers, instructors and directors. The program, in addition to master classes at the Juilliard School conducted by veteran Broadway star and concert artist Barbara Cook, will include daily dance classes, private coaching, and observation at rehearsals of Broadway shows.

Envisaged is a fourth phase to be held in the spring of 1998. It will feature a joint professional venture between the theater communities of Israel and the US in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. *Naomi Doudai*

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without

THE JERUSALEM POST

Jews strike out in Italian opera

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT



Michele Petrusi stars as Moise in an Italian production of Rossini's 'Moise et Pharaon.'

(Amati Bacciardi)

The Italian press called it "intifada in reverse," but a more proper title would have been "Bar-Ilan riots on the opera stage."

By the end of the first act of Rossini's French grand opera *Moise et Pharaon*, as the God of Israel struck the Egyptians (all clad in white) with the plague of darkness, the sons of Israel (clad in hardi black and wearing kippos) very passionately threw sand and flung imaginary stones at the horrified Egyptians.

Jews throwing stones as if calling "Shabbos!"

It was horrifying. It is something we are all too familiar with here in Israel, but as far as I was concerned it was something I did not want to see on the opera stage, and certainly not in Pesaro, Italy.

But British opera director Graham Vick thought otherwise. His overwhelming and larger-than-life production, with extraordinary, imaginative and even more larger-than-life sets by the always captivating and imaginative Stefanos Lazaridis, tried on the one hand to make some social political comment and on the other to present *yiddishkeit* on the stage in a very kitschy way.

This was the *Reader's Digest* manual to Jewish customs and traditions.

There was hardly any Jewish tradition left out of the production, from children studying with a rabbi to circumcision, from the sacrifice of Isaac to klezmer-style hassidic weddings to the wandering Jew (the one with a small suitcase).

There were Jewish symbols scattered all around the stage and the huge sports palace of the small Italian city of Pesaro, on the shores of the Adriatic, where the production opened this year's annual Rossini festival on

August 9.

All that was fine, even if a little overdone. After all, each to his own taste.

But presenting the Jews as a nation of obscure religious inclination and rituals beside the much more areligious mythical pure Egyptians was somewhat lacking in taste. Why does Vick reverse the usual purification by water ceremony and make the character of Anna – Miriam's daughter – cleanse herself and then change garments from white to black? It felt strange and uncalled for.

That said, the production on the whole was very rich in visuals.

And indeed there was nothing more emotional than the penultimate scene in which the sons of Israel pray to their Lord to save them from the pursuing Egyptians.

It was a prayer done in earnest, both dramatically and musically, on a set filled with enormous Hebrew letters representing the Ten Commandments.

Musically speaking, this was a first-rate production, with maestro Wladimir Jurowski leading the exceptional Prague Chamber Chorus and the orchestra of the Bologna opera with passion and devotion. There was also some superb singing, especially by Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz as Anna, and Charles Workman as Amenophis, the son of Anna and Pharaoh.

Unfortunately, Michele Petrusi as Moses was much less commanding in his fine stylized singing than the more humane and emotional Eldar Alev as Pharaoh.

Rossini changed his original Italian opera *Moise* to the French *Moise et Pharaon* to suit the tastes of the French public. Vick and Lazaridis took the French opera and presented it back to the Italians of today in a more imaginative, albeit at times far-fetched, way.

Jacobi of all trades

By PATRICIA BRENNAN

Sir Derek Jacobi has spent much of his esteemed career performing in the clever, worldly plays of William Shakespeare. But he doesn't believe that the Bard of Avon wrote them.

"I think Shakespeare wrote the plays – but who was Shakespeare?" said Jacobi. "He wasn't, in my mind, the man who lived in Stratford. I suspect that he did act in the company, but he was a very minor actor, and I think that whoever wrote the plays took his name as a front, a cover."

Jacobi thinks the playwright was likely Edward Devere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, a man more worldly and educated than the corn merchant and part-time actor from Stratford.

That view didn't seem to bother the folks at Washington's Folger Shakespeare Library, where Jacobi was guest of honor at the library's 65th-anniversary gala, nor at a host of other Washington cultural events.

And such a heretical view never ruffled the fans of his television portrayals, including the one for which he is best known, the Roman emperor in the 13-part 1977-78 series *I, Claudius*.

He also portrayed Brother Cadfael, a 12th-century crime-solving Franciscan in PBS's *Mystery*. Jacobi reads each of Ellis Peters' 20 Cadfael stories as they are filmed, but added, "We didn't use her actual dialogue; we couldn't – it's too archaic."

As Cadfael, Jacobi wears the distinctive Franciscan hairstyle with a bald patch at the crown. He doesn't much like that aspect of his role, fearing during the first season of filming that his own sandy hair wouldn't return. (It did.) "They can get people on the moon but they can't create a state-of-the-art ton-

sured wig," he said. The *Cadfael* people provided Jacobi with a toupee, what he calls "a little blond spider for social occasions." One time, he said, on a windy day, he went to dinner at a restaurant in Budapest. Eating alone, he noticed people looking at him. "It was standing straight up," he recalled with chagrin. "So I ripped it off."

Cadfael is a character who had never been done before. Except for minimal descriptions of the monk as being in his late fifties, sunburned from days in his garden among his herbs, and having a walk similar to a sailor's gait, Jacobi was able to create his own persona. "It could be me," he said. Portrayals of real people, on the other hand, come with baggage.

Cryptographer Alan Turing of *Breaking the Code* stuttered and bit his nails. Claudius stumbled and limped. Lord Byron, another of Jacobi's roles, had a club foot and he, too, bit his nails.

But Cadfael has none of these problems. And, like all good detectives – and good actors – he's a keen observer.

Since 1960, shortly after graduating from St. John's College, Cambridge, Jacobi has spent his career portraying other men. Among his films are *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Odessa File*.

There are also dozens of stage plays, including the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Not all his stage roles are by the Bard, either. Before it was shown on PBS, *Breaking the Code* won him a 1988 Tony Award.

He said he enjoys the "paraphernalia" of celebrity that accompanies movies but is more at home on the stage. In films, "you're not in control – you can be made to do something you didn't even do."

(The Washington Post)

IN TUNE

Fanclub comes of age

By DAVID BRINN

Like the virginal country scenes that adorn the jacket, Teenage Fanclub's *Songs from Northern Britain* is a breath of fresh air, clear and unblemished rock 'n' roll with no ulterior motives.

Which may seem funny coming from the quartet that gained notoriety in the late 1980s for its grunge-inspired, letter-perfect cover of Madonna's "Like a Virgin" and for its subsequent albums of unabashed bubblegum pop filtered through Crazy Horse distortion with sardonic titles like *Bandwagonesque*. In fact, the band's name is nothing other than a self-deprecating putdown of the band's simple aspirations.

Here, the tongue-in-cheek "in your face" obviousness of the

SONGS FROM NORTHERN BRITAIN
Teenage Fanclub
(NMC)

SENIOR BLUES
Taj Mahal
(Red Artz)

LIFE AFTER DEATH
The Notorious B.I.G.
(Red Artz)

BATMAN & ROBIN
SOUNDTRACK
Various Artists
(Red Artz)

band's early years gives way to a pure yet subtle mid-'60s Byrds obsession. Soaring three-part harmonies compete with shimmering 12-string guitars which ring around lovely melodies and driving beats. Sometimes the similarities are so uncanny, you expect Roger McGuinn to jump out of a chorus. And like those mid-'60s albums before rock operas and 20-minute solos became the rage, each song is concise, to the point, and fades out before you know it. There's an open-eyed optimism that pervades the album that only the most crusty listener would take for cynical.

Unfortunately, there are no stand-out songs that would break the band out big time, but as a whole it stands up better than any of its four previous efforts, due to the evident maturing of the ensemble work. What it lacks in originality, it makes up in heart.

Some may say that Teenage Fanclub is drenched in nostalgia, but a good listen to *Songs from Northern Britain* may confirm that the future never looked so

TAJ MAHAL'S latest, *Senior Blues*, is a rich cornucopia of musical styles, which, to the uninitiated layman can all be lumped together as "the blues." To plagiarize a review snippet on Taj's home page, "A masterful



Teenage Fanclub: Nostalgic tendencies, yet a breath of fresh air

melange of inspired cover tunes and originals that weave a musical tapestry of chiming guitars, raucous piano, Memphis/New Orleans horn charts, Caribbean grooves, jazzy soul, percussive polyrhythms, and Taj's black-strap-molasses-over-buckwheat-cakes vocals, *Senior Blues* is world music in its most democratic sense.

The opening track of "Queen Bee" is a Taj original, a simple acoustic track reminiscent of his early work. "Think" screams New Orleans from the vocals, backing vocals, and hot sax solo.

The title track, a wicked remake of a '50s tune by jazz great Horace Silver, is reminiscent of Dave Brubeck with Taj's appropriate vocals. He steals the horn/rhythm track from "Mustang Sally" on "Mr. Pitiful," an Otis Redding ditty, and "Sophisticated Mama" and "You Rascal You" hark back to the 1930s' bawdy Black blues numbers that were among the first put onto a side of wax.

One of the most interesting pieces on the album is Taj's cover of Hank Williams' "Mind Your Own Business." As with the other styles on the record, he successfully takes a country-and-western classic and makes it his own.

The Notorious B.I.G.'s *Life After Death* is quite pedestrian mainstream rap by one of the genre's biggest (figuratively and literally) stars.

Bucking rap tradition by staying alive to reap the rewards of a hit, Notorious utilizes a bland piano-

based background for his rhymes. Inspirational title must go to the takeoff on Dean Martin's crowd-pleaser of the '60s TV generation, "You're Nobody (Till Somebody Kills You)."

HOLY merchandising. Batman! The soundtrack to *Batman and Robin* would be a good disc to go into the time vaults, with its cross-section of today's biggest stars in rock (Smashing Pumpkins, R.E.M. pop (Jewel, R. Kelly) and hip hop (Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Me'Shell Ndegeocello) destined to appeal to every segment of the record-buying public.

Of course none of it goes together, leaving only an expensive souvenir of the movie for the pre-teens filling the theaters this summer. Still worthwhile for Jewel's stunning performance of "Foolish Games," which reveals the reliance on boring formula that pervades the other material.

The other King

Amid the hoopla surrounding the 20th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death, many may forget that this month also marks the second *yahrzeit* of Jerry Garcia, leader of The Grateful Dead and spiritual icon to thousands of reformed and unrepentant hippies.

The Tel Aviv Cinematheque is hosting a night devoted to Garcia on Thursday, which will feature a new documentary on the band, a live concert from band member Bob Weir and, as usual, "new" live Dead from 1989.

The festivities begin at 10 p.m. Tie-dye is optional.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	3	4	EYVATAR BANAI	EYVATAR BANAI
#2	1	7	VIA	HITMAN 8
#3	2	3	ARIK EINHSTEIN	LE'AN PARHU HAPARPARIM
#4	14	14	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#5	10	27	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#6	8	6	VIA	SUMMER FIESTA 2
#7	9	7	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHEITRTZI
#8	5	3	VIA	SUMMER PARTY
#9	6	9	TEA PACKS	NESHIKA LADDO
#10	25	73	RIA	COLLECTION
#11	15	9	VIA	JE TAIME
#12	13	7	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#13	11	2	ASTRAL PROJECTION	DANCING GALAXY
#14	NEW!	1	SHABAK SAMEH	BATIFA SHEL MAMTAK
#15	7	5	TRACY CHAPMAN	TRACY CHAPMAN

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The summer opera program of the Israel Vocal Arts Institute, undoubtedly the best and most exhilarating show in town, presents its regular mix of exciting mini-productions — that is with symbolic costumes, no sets to speak of, a piano replacing the orchestra, and lots of imagination and joie de vivre, ranging from the tried and true repertoire to the more adventurous and perhaps not so conventional works.

Tonight you can enjoy Kurt Weill's American musical-cum-opera *Street Scene*, while tomorrow it is time for the ultimate Puccini tearjerker, *La Bohème*. Not to be missed, even if tickets are hard to come by. Both at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv (8).

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Celebrity is an original production by the cable company which takes an ironic look at the workings behind the scenes of Israeli journalism and celeb society. A newspaper gossip columnist decides to get back at a supermodel who bad-mouthed her to the rival paper and fabricates an affair between the model and a meek, unattractive accountant who once helped her fix her car. The rumor changes the life of the accountant, who becomes an overnight celebrity. It also upsets one of the paper's large advertisers, the model's boyfriend. Starring Hannah Laszlo, one of the best comedienne in the country, with Rivka Michaeli and Gabi Gazit. Family Channel, 8:55 p.m.

Ultrascience is a series currently showing on Channel 8, which looks at science and its effect on our lives. This week's episode, "Impossible Dreams," at 7:05 p.m., examines scientific inventions which started out as figments of people's imagination and later became reality. Take for example the French sci-fi writer Jules Verne, whose submarine is a familiar part of our world today.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** MEN IN BLACK — Barry Sonnenfeld's playfully off-beat parody of the Martian-movie genre stars Tommy Lee Jones and



Comedienne Hannah Laszlo stars in "Celebrity," on the Family Channel (3) at 8:55 p.m.

Will Smith as nattily dressed officers in a top-secret agency designed to keep track of all alien life forms currently residing on planet Earth. The funniest thing about the film, which was written by Ed Solomon from a comic book by Lowell Cunningham, is its crisply matter-of-fact approach to good old worldly law and order. There's something at once knowing and rather resigned about the practical, slightly archaic way in which the MIBs go about their work—crusing their beat, drinking coffee from paper cups, pulling over alien-owned cars to check the driver's license and registration. Clearly, the universe is too vast and mysterious a place to be policed effectively by a few deputized mortals in a gas-guzzling Plymouth. But the agents do what they can to keep the peace, and their actions come to seem logical in a loopy, deadpan way: of course there are Martians on the streets of New York, and of course someone high-up must know about it. The movie pokes gentle fun at conspiracy theories at the same time that it honors them. With Linda Fiorentino, who doesn't have enough to do as a leggy corner/damsel in distress. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 The Intrepid
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 Hot Science
12:10 A.J., Time
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:10 The Story of Read A-Zeal A-Zeal

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Zappy Wave
15:33 Derive, the Last Dance
15:50 Super Ben
16:00 Heartbreak High
16:45 Super Ben
16:50 Super Prize
16:58 A New Evening
17:04 Zappy Wave
17:50 Garfield
18:10 Super Ben
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Pano
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:00 News flash
19:31 Cosby
20:00 News
20:50 Lotto draw
20:55 Gypsy — Greek singer's charity concert
22:05 The People's Century
23:00 Dream On

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Gargoyles
7:00 Coffee with Ted
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CHANNEL 2



Vintage Tu Be'av

Shai Ohana and Limor Aharonovich celebrate Tu Be'av yesterday in Jerusalem. During the Second Temple era, Jewish girls would dance in the vineyards to mark the start of the vintage and attract potential husbands. (Brian Hendler)

Hammer seeks ways to abolish all school fees

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer has ordered the immediate formation of a committee of professionals to present him with a workable plan to completely cancel all school payments made by parents. According to an Education Ministry spokesman, Hammer's action was in keeping with the recommendations of the Langerman Committee, set up by Hammer in November 1991 to advise him on how to lessen the financial burden on the parents.

The commission made recommendations to Hammer in May 1992, which were approved by Hammer at the time, including:

- The financing of educational services should fall on the entire population, and not just on the parents of pupils.
- The committee recommended three alternatives: increasing the municipal taxes collected by the local authorities and municipalities; an education levy to be collected by

the local authorities or the Treasury; additional payments to the National Insurance Institute, as was done when the nation's high schools were made free, and a small addition to NDI payments was made.

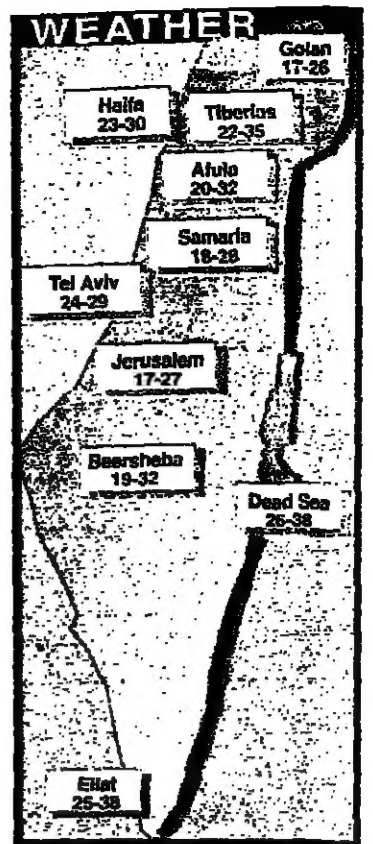
• When one of these alternatives is adopted, schools will stop collecting funds from parents, and no fees for education will be collected by the local authorities.

• A recommendation was made to legislate a minimum number of hours per child and/or class.

Hammer said the first implementation of these recommendations was the cancellation of the fee parents had paid for their children's matriculation exams, beginning September 1, and cancellation of the health levy. He said his ministry would implement a long-term plan to implement the commission's recommendations.

"Education is not a luxury," Hammer said. "I don't accept the approach which sees education as only an interest of those consumers who need it, like parents and children, but rather a national interest of our entire society. Just as all Israelis are partners in the defense effort and help fund it, we should see to it that our entire society bears the burden of our educational and social infrastructure, so that the burden is distributed between all citizens in a real and equal manner."

Meanwhile, leaders of the Secondary School Teachers Association will meet this morning to decide what steps to take in light of the cuts in the Education Ministry budget, and will inform Hammer at noon just what those steps will be.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Unseasonably cool.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	15	22	81
Bahia	18	26	82
Buenos Aires	17	23	70
Caracas	22	27	71
Chicago	16	22	79
Copenhagen	11	18	81
Hankow	18	24	82
Hong Kong	27	31	81
London	15	21	81
Los Angeles	18	24	81
Madrid	20	26	82
Manila	10	20	73
Montreal	18	24	81
New York	18	24	81
Nice	18	24	81
Paris	18	24	81
Rome	18	24	81
Sydney	11	18	81
Tokyo	21	27	84
Toronto	11	18	81
Vancouver	11	18	81
Zurich	15	21	73

Winning cards

In yesterday's first Chance drawing, (26-4-97) the winning cards were the queen of spades, the king of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the jack of clubs. In the second drawing (26-5-97), the winning cards were the jack of spades, the king of hearts, the 10 of diamonds, and the 9 of clubs.

Doctors threaten sanctions

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israel Medical Association declared a labor dispute yesterday and threatened to launch sanctions in September unless the government made good on promises to add positions to internal medicine departments.

The IMA accused the government, Kupat Holim Clalit and other employers of failing to carry out an agreement signed in March to increase job slots and overtime duty in hospital internal medicine departments.

The agreement has not been implemented because of a funding dispute between the health and finance ministries. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said he was awaiting the results of a mediation committee he expected to hear from over the next few days.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said that physicians would launch sanctions at the beginning of

September if the government does not fulfill the agreement, which calls for adding 360 doctors' positions, 90 overtime slots and 1,200 beds to internal medicine departments — which bear the burden of elderly and chronically ill patients.

The agreement was supposed to have gone into effect in May, and the IMA fears that further delays in implementation could lead to overcrowding and substandard care during the high-occupancy winter season.

Matza said yesterday he was "working day and night to solve budgetary problems that prevent implementation of the agreement with the IMA." He also said he hoped for more Treasury readiness to foot the bill.

The mediation committee, comprised of accountant Yitzhak Sueri and medical economist Prof. Zvi Adar, was appointed by Health Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash a few weeks ago.

Young women try to visit Rabin's assassin

By News Agencies

A young woman pined outside Beersheba prison yesterday for prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin Yigal Amir on the day celebrated by some here as the "holiday of love," while yet another young woman tried to see him to propose marriage.

Authorities at the prison refused to let them inside.

"There's something about him," Russian-born Tatiana, 23, told Israel Radio yesterday. "I want him to feel good and feel that today is the day of love," she said. Yesterday was Tu B'Shvat.

She was escorted by Avigdor Eskin, who was convicted in May of violat-

ing the Prevention of Terrorism Act by putting a curse on Rabin a month before Amir killed him.

Eskin is free on bail while he appeals a four-month prison sentence. "Why are Arab prisoners allowed to meet their relatives and she is not?" Eskin asked at the gate as Tatiana was turned away.

Amir is in solitary confinement and serving a life term for the November 1995 assassination.

Another teenager, who identified herself only as Anat, 18, also announced plans to visit Amir to propose marriage. She asserted on Army Radio that she wasn't trying to express agreement with Rabin's assassination but thought it unfair that Amir was alone in jail.

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Susskin's wedding postponed

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The wedding of Tatiana Susskin, an art school dropout accused of inflaming Moslems worldwide in June by posting fliers in Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig, was postponed indefinitely yesterday.

Susskin, 26, who is in custody and awaiting trial, plans to marry Yehuda Shorron, a 25-year-old bricklayer and, like her, a supporter of the outlawed Kach

movement.

The couple wanted to tie the knot yesterday on Tu B'Shvat. But a Jerusalem District Court judge didn't rule in time on a request for Susskin to be permitted to leave jail for a day for the nuptials. The request was filed late Sunday, only after the High Court turned down Susskin's petition to be released from jail. Justice Yaacov Kedmi ruled that Susskin could pose a security risk if she were set free.